

# STARS AND STRIPES®

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Volume 2, No. 242 © EPSS 2004 MIDEAST EDITION WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 8, 2004

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stability,  
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at inauguration**

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Afghan President Hamid Karzai shakes hands with U.S. Vice President Dick Cheney on Tuesday at the presidential palace in Kabul, Afghanistan, following Karzai's inauguration. Karzai took the reins as the first democratically elected president of Afghanistan, a nation still threatened by a Taliban insurgency and a surging drug trade.

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## News Tracker ... What's new with old news

### World

**Romania rock star funeral:** Hundreds of fans turned out Tuesday in this Transylvanian city for the funeral of a Romania rock star who was killed in a car accident involving a U.S. Marine.

Teofil Peter, a 50-year-old bass player with the popular Romania band Compact, died in the crash early Saturday.

Romania's Prime Minister Adrian Nastase appealed to President Bush on Tuesday to help bring the Marine to justice, adding that his immediate departure from the country after the accident has caused outrage in Romania.

**Ukraine election:** Lawmakers convened in Kiev's parliament Tuesday in hopes of striking a deal that would secure a fair presidential vote at the end of the month, and opposition protesters appeared to grow restless with the prolonged political crisis.

An initial agreement Monday between opposition leader Viktor Yushchenko's camp and Prime Minister Viktor Yanukovich's supporters called for simultaneous passage of two issues by parliament.

One issue was opposition-demanded electoral changes to prevent fraud in the Dec. 26 presidential election — a rerun of the Nov. 21 runoff balloting. The other was government-demanded constitutional reform that would trim presidential powers.

But the deal appeared in jeopardy early Tuesday after late-night European-mediated talks.

**Moroccan terror suspects' trial:** Five Moroccans held for nearly three years at the U.S. military prison in Guantanamo Bay including a suspected bodyguard for Osama bin Laden — went on trial in Rabat charged with posing a threat to national security.

Arrested in Pakistan and Afghanistan in late 2001, all five were accused of taking training courses in how to handle firearms and make explosives.

Soon after the trial opened Monday at a Rabat criminal court, lawyers for the group won a two-week postponement until Dec. 20 to better prepare their defense. The court denied a request that the defendants be released from prison during the trial.

After spending two years and eight months at the U.S. detention camp in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, the men were turned over to Moroccan authorities in August.

**Group suicide in Japan:** Three people were found dead inside a car parked outside a remote forest in southern Japan early Tuesday in what police suspected was the country's latest group suicide.

Two women and a man were found in a minivan in the town of Yayoi, in Japan's southern prefecture of Oita. Local police spokesman Mikio Suura said. A 42-year-old woman was slumped over in the driver's seat, while a 19-year-old man sat in the passenger seat and a 26-year-old woman sat in the back seat.

Three portable stoves containing solid charcoal fuel sat on the floor and the windows were sealed with vinyl tape from the inside. Police later found suicide notes inside the car.

**Mad cow in Italy:** A cow in southern Italy has tested positive for mad cow disease, raising to 124 the number of cases detected in the country since testing began in 2001, the Health Ministry said Monday.

The ministry said analysis confirmed that an 8-year-old cow from a breeding farm in the countryside of Avellino had the disease.



**U.S. Army deserter:** Former U.S. Army deserter Charles Jenkins, left, and his wife, Hitori Soga, smile Tuesday while holding bouquets of flowers they received upon their arrival at Mano Town Hall in Sado, a small island in the Sea of Japan. Greeted by cheering crowds, the couple and their two daughters will start a new life in Soga's hometown after Jenkins finished serving a one-month sentence for abandoning his Army post in 1965 to avoid the perils of duty on the Korean peninsula.

The disease affects the brains of cattle and is incurable. Two years ago, Italy reported its first case of the human form of the brain-wasting illness, Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease, which experts believe is transmitted by eating meat from infected animals.

### States

**U.S. border checks:** Foreign nationals entering the United States ripped through the main port in Nogales and several other locations in Arizona and California as a new digital screening program went into effect.

"It's much faster this way," said Adolfo Moroyqui Felix, who was traveling between Mexico and Phoenix. "They had to fill out paperwork before. It's more effective this way."

The screenings are part of a post-Sept. 11 plan to one day ID and record every foreigner who enters and leaves the United States. It has been in place at U.S. airports and seaports for nearly a year. It will be in the country's 50 busiest land ports by the end of the month and at all 165 land border crossings by the end of next year.

**Scott Peterson trial:** In tearful testimony, Scott Peterson's family and friends pleaded with jurors to spare his life, contending that he was mistakenly convicted of killing his pregnant wife, Laci.

Testimony in the seven-month-old trial's penalty phase was set to continue Tuesday and run into the next day before closing arguments. Jurors were expected to begin deliberating Thursday whether to sentence Peterson to life without parole or the death penalty. Peterson was convicted Nov. 12 of one count of first-degree murder in the death of his pregnant wife, Laci, and one count of second-degree murder for the killing of her fetus.

**Arthritis drugs:** New research suggests that pain reliever Celebrex does not carry the same heart attack risk as Vioxx, a similar drug pulled from the market in September because of safety concerns.

The study by researchers at the University of Pennsylvania compares the two arthri-

tis drugs and contradicts claims by other scientists that all so-called cox-2 inhibitors may carry similar dangers.

"Vioxx and Celebrex look different. Relative to Celebrex, Vioxx had about a three-fold greater risk of heart attacks," said Dr. Stephen Kimmel, associate professor of medicine and epidemiology and lead author of the study. "What that implies is that all cox-2 inhibitors may not be the same."

**Robert Blake trial:** The judge in the Robert Blake murder case delayed opening statements for two weeks because of the theft of his defense lawyer's computer, and a defense lawyer disclosed that a key prosecution witness was admitted recently to a psychiatric ward following an episode of paranoia.

**Governor recount:** Washington state has ordered a third vote tally — this time an expensive and time-consuming hand count — to solve a political mystery: Who will be the state's next governor? The state Supreme Court apparently will jump into the fray later this week, potentially expanding the number of ballots to be counted.

The first count ended with Republican Dino Rossi 261 votes ahead of Democrat Christine Gregoire out of 2.9 million ballots cast five weeks ago. An automatic machine recount certified a week ago again put Rossi ahead, this time by 42 votes.

On Monday, Secretary of State Sam Reed ordered a statewide hand recount.

**Deadly smuggling attempt:** A Honduran man who survived the nation's deadliest human smuggling attempt described a grim scene inside the trailer where he was packed with other immigrants.

"We were very desperate. People were taking off their clothes ... I was very weak," said David Fernando Amaya-Leon, who testified Monday in the trial of three people who prosecutors say are members of a smuggling ring that tried to transport him and more than 70 other illegal immigrants from South Texas to Houston in May 2003 inside the trailer.

Photos and stories by The Associated Press

### Correction

A story in Tuesday's edition about cargo being loaded onto a Military Sealift Command ship in England contained incorrect information. The equipment came from the Army Field Support Battalion in Hythe, England.

**Comics, horoscopes and advice  
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# Bush thanks Pendleton troops

By DEB RIECHMANN

The Associated Press

CAMP PENDLETON, Calif. — President Bush, appearing before cheering U.S. forces Tuesday, declared that terrorists won't be able to control Iraq's destiny because "free people will never choose their own enslavement."

Bush said that as election day there approaches on Jan. 30, "we can expect further violence" but also said that the balloting must go forward.

A large crowd of Marines clad in tan-and-green camouflage uniforms bellowed "oo-rah," as Bush, who donned a tan military-style jacket with epaulettes, thanked U.S. forces. He said the bravery and sacrifice of the troops has made America safer.

"You see, the terrorists understand what is at stake," the president said. "They know they have no future in a free Iraq."

"They know democracy will give Iraqis a stake in the future of their country," Bush said. "When Iraqis choose their leader in free elections, it will destroy the myth that the terrorists are fighting a foreign occupation and make clear that what the terrorists really are fighting is the will of the Iraqi people."



President Bush is escorted by U.S. Naval officers left, and Marine officers to an awards ceremony at Marine Corp Air Station Miramar on Tuesday in San Diego. Bush addressed troops at Camp Pendleton, which has experienced one of the largest casualty rates in Iraq.

Bush addressed troops at a stadium at Camp Pendleton in southern California, which has experienced one of the largest casualty rates in Iraq.

More than 21,000 troops from the 1st Marine Expeditionary Force, based at Camp Pendleton, are serving in al-Anbar province in Iraq.

They belong to units that have done house-to-house searches for weapons in Fallujah, handed out food and water to Iraqi citizens, taken fire from rocket launchers and fought masked insurgents toting AK-47s.

Bush planned lunch with troops and a meeting with families of servicemen at this military base, 38 miles north of San Diego. More than 21,000 Marines serving in Iraq and neighboring nations are part of the 1st Marine Expeditionary Force based there.

Speaking on the 63rd anniversary of Pearl Harbor, Bush suggested ways Americans can actively support the troops.

Several options include a Defense Department program called "America Supports You," designed to showcase support for the military from individuals, businesses and groups as a way of encouraging others to do the same.

The ongoing insurgency in Iraq and upcoming elections on Jan. 30 dominated the president's meeting at the White House on Monday with Iraqi interim President Ghazi al-Yawer. Postponing the election, both leaders said, would amount to giving a concession to insurgents.

More than 200 U.S. troops from units based at Camp Pendleton have died since the beginning of Iraqi Freedom in March 2003, according to a Defense Department casualty count.

Among their missions, Camp Pendleton Marines were among the thousands of U.S. and Iraqi troops that fought recently to secure the insurgent stronghold of Fallujah.

## U.S. deaths in Iraq

The Associated Press

As of Monday, at least 1,276 members of the U.S. military have died since the beginning of the Iraq war in March 2003, according to an Associated Press count. At least 998 died as a result of hostile action, the Defense Department said. The figures include three military civilians.

The AP count is six higher than the Defense Department's tally, last updated at 10 a.m. EST Monday.

The British military has reported 74 deaths; Italy, 19; Poland, 13; Spain, 11; Ukraine, nine; Bulgaria, seven; Slovakia, three; Estonia, Thailand and the Netherlands, two each; and Denmark, El Salvador, Hungary and Latvia one death each.

Since May 1, 2003, when President Bush declared that major combat operations in Iraq had ended, 1,138 U.S. military members have died, according to AP's count. That includes at least 889 deaths resulting from hostile action, according to the military's numbers.

The latest deaths reported by the military:

■ Three Marines were killed in action in two separate incidents Sunday in Anbar province.

■ Two Marines were killed Friday in fighting in western Anbar province.

The latest identifications reported by the military:

■ Army Staff Sgt. Henry E. Irizarry, 38, New York; died Friday in Tajik when an explosive detonated near his vehicle; assigned to the 1st Battalion, 69th Infantry Regiment, New York.

■ Army Spc. David P. Mahlenbrock, 20, Maple Shade, N.J.; died Friday in Kirkuk when he was clearing a route and an explosive detonated; assigned to the 65th Engineer Battalion, 25th Infantry Division (Light), Schofield Barracks, Hawaii.

■ Army Staff Sgt. Carl A. Gasiewicz, 28, Depew, N.Y.; died Saturday in Baqubah when two explosives detonated near her convoy; assigned to the 202nd Military Intelligence Battalion, 513th Military Intelligence Brigade, Fort Gordon, Ga.

■ Marine Cpl. Binh N. Le, 20, Alexandria, Va., and Marine Cpl. Matthew A. Wyatt, 21, Millstadt, Ill. Both Marines died Friday from injuries received in action in Anbar province; assigned to 3rd Battalion, 10th Marine Regiment, 2nd Marine Division, II Marine Expeditionary Force, Camp Lejeune, N.C.

■ Army Staff Sgt. Salamo J. Tualatunzu, 23, of Pago Pago, American Samoa, and Army Staff Sgt. David A. Mitts, 24, of Hammond, Ore. Both soldiers died Saturday in Mosul when they were struck by a mortar shell; assigned to the 3rd Battalion, 21st Infantry Regiment, 1st Brigade, 25th Infantry Division (Stryker Brigade Combat Team), Fort Lewis, Wash.

## Iraq official: Insurgents cross border too easily

By NICK WADHAMS

The Associated Press

BAGHDAH — Iraq's deputy prime minister on Tuesday expressed his growing impatience with neighboring countries for not doing enough to keep foreign fighters from joining the insurgency here, and warned that his government would take a "decisive stance" if they don't do more.

Also Tuesday, two U.S. servicemen were killed, the military said. A soldier was slain by small-arm fire while on patrol in Baghdad and a Marine died in a vehicle accident in the western Anbar province.

In Russia, President Vladimir Putin said Tuesday he could not imagine how Iraqi elections scheduled for Jan. 30 could be held under current conditions. Insurgents in the country have killed more than 80 Iraqis in a string of attacks since Friday, and Iraq's Sunni Arab Muslims are demanding the vote be postponed.

"Honestly speaking, I cannot imagine how it is possible to organize elections under the conditions of occupation by foreign forces," Putin said in televised comments during a Kremlin meeting with Iraqi interim Prime Minister Ayad Allawi.

Barham Saleh, speaking to the Iraqi National Council, did not say which countries were to blame for not tightening border crossings, though he did say that on Monday, Iraqi police had arrested a Syrian citizen driving a car bomb packed with artillery shells and other explosives.

"There is evidence indicating that some



U.S. troops inspect a shop in Baghdad that was destroyed by an explosion early Tuesday. The shop, close to Baghdad's dangerous airport highway, according to neighbors, was bombed after the owner refused to cooperate with insurgents.

groups in some neighboring countries are playing a direct role in the killing of the Iraqi people and such thing is not acceptable to us," Saleh said, adding that talks with foreign leaders to stop the problem had gotten nowhere.

"In my opinion, we have reached a stage in which if we do not see a real response from those countries, then we are obliged to take a decisive stance," Saleh said, without giving details.

In the past, Iraq has blamed much of its insurgency on foreign fighters and has called on its neighbors — particularly Syria and Iran — to more closely guard their borders against infiltration.

Neighboring countries have expressed concern that instability in Iraq poses a threat to the entire region.

The U.S. military said American troops had

captured 34 Iraqis, including 10 wanted for making explosives devices to attack coalition forces. South of Baghdad, a roadside bomb killed three Iraqi National Guardsmen.

Soldiers from the 1st Infantry Division detained seven members of a car bomb-making cell Monday evening in As Sinyah, about 150 miles north of Baghdad. Another seven people, including three suspects wanted for making roadside bombs, were captured during raids Monday in Saddam Hussein's hometown, about 80 miles north of Baghdad.

In the roadside bombing, the Iraqi National Guardsmen were patrolling an area near Jebah, about 40 miles south of Baghdad, on Monday evening when the attack occurred, an Iraqi National Guard official said on condition of anonymity. The National Guard and other homegrown Iraqi security forces frequently are targeted by insurgents, who accuse them of collaborating with U.S.-led occupation forces.



PHOTOS BY RON JENSEN/Stars and Stripes

At a bridge floating on the Tigris River in Iraq, convoys often face long waits because only one truck can cross at a time. During one recent mission, members of the 369th Transportation Company had to wait nervously for four hours as other convoys made their way across the bridge. A new bridge is being built by Marines that will be able to handle more traffic.

# 'Is today the day?'

## Convoy's daily grind makes for a long haul

BY RON JENSEN  
Stars and Stripes

LOGISTICS SUPPORT AREA ANACONDA, Iraq — Sgt. 1st Class Ricky Hill, a quiet man from southern Virginia, gathered the 21 drivers conveying fuel and other supplies to Forward Operating Base Warhorse.

It was not yet dawn and Hill, 47, who has two sons serving in Iraq and another on the way this month, was the convoy's commander.

"If you take small arms fire, turn on your turn signal on the side it's coming from," he told the drivers, using a flashlight to read his notes. If someone is wounded, turn on the emergency lights. If a vehicle has a mechanical problem, flash the headlights.

With a final note about insurgents "causing havoc" along the road, the convoy left with a gun truck in the lead and Hill following in an armored Humvee. The remaining 19 vehicles stretched for a good part of a mile.

The road from LSA Anaconda to FOB Warhorse is as familiar to the soldiers of the 369th Transportation Company as their own backyards.

They know every twist and turn, every

bump, every village and every palm grove that creeps close to the road, providing possible cover for an insurgent.

They've driven the 25-mile route nearly every day since arriving in March and can point out the scarred holes along the pavement where roadside bombs, known as improvised explosive devices by troops, have detonated.

The Reserve unit from Wichita, Kan., has about 150 soldiers. It has collected numerous Purple Hearts. Two soldiers were wounded so seriously they were sent home. But insurgents have not taken the life of any member in the 369th.

"We've all encountered small arms fire," said Sgt. 1st Class Larry Boudreau from West Virginia. "I don't think there's a person in the company that hasn't encountered an IED."

"All you can hear is your heart," said 20-year-old Sgt. Tamara Holub, describing the moments after a roadside bomb exploded.

A few days earlier, the company was delayed for several hours by eight roadside bombs on the way to Warhorse, all of them spotted before they could do any damage.

Risk is part of every convoy's load. "Everyday we go out the north gate [of Anaconda], we see the sign: 'Is today the day?'" said Holub, a driver from Wichita, Kan. "Every time you see that sign, you think about it."

Yet they drive. Most have completed more than 100 missions, many close to 200.

The people of the 369th come from more than 20 states, although most are from Kansas. They are students, mechanics and truck drivers in civilian life.

But in Iraq, they are soldiers who move supplies to other soldiers. "Strap tight, fit to fight" is the company motto, succinctly summing up the two jobs.

"Every other day, we go on missions," said Sgt. Ryan Wade, 20, a driver from southeastern Kansas. "The day we're off, we're working on the trucks, sandbagging our trailers."

They have driven other routes — as far north as Mosul and as far south as Kuwait. But every day, the company sends a convoy from Anaconda to Warhorse.

The familiarity has given them an advantage. They know what's there, and they know what shouldn't be there.

"I'm looking for discrepancies, something out of place," said Staff Sgt. Christopher Koepfel, 31, from Wichita.

Was that abandoned car there yesterday? Are the children, ubiquitous for much of the route, absent from the spot where they normally stand to wave and ask for handouts? Sgt. Christopher Collins, a college stu-



Sgt. 1st Class Ricky Hill of the 369th Transportation Company, an Army Reserve unit from Wichita, Kan., keeps an eye on his lead gun truck while commanding a convoy recently between two bases in Iraq. Two of Hill's sons are also serving in Iraq, and a third is on the way.

dent from Kansas City, Mo., remembered riding in a gun truck when someone opened up on the convoy.

"I saw a muzzle flash coming from a blue truck," he said. "I let them have it."

It was instinct, he said, a case of training kicking in and reacting with the .50-caliber machine gun he manned that day.

"If you're going to be talking," he said, "that's a good one to be talking with."

Along the way, there are a couple of worse spots.

At a floating bridge across the Tigris, only one truck can cross at a time.

This takes more than 30 minutes, as vehicles must wait on the far side. Hill spends that time nervously watching and tracking each vehicle crossing with his radio.

Another unsettling spot is the town of Al Khalis, which bristles with traffic. Convoys hate traffic. Other vehicles can slow a convoy almost to a halt, making it vulnerable, or they can slip between two convoy vehicles.

"If anybody gets inside our convoy," Koepfel said, "it makes your hair stand up."

In recent months, U.S. convoys around Iraq have come across a new insurgent attack method: the VBIED, which stands for vehicle-borne improvised explosive device. Someone drives up to a convoy, opens the door or window and tosses a bomb at a truck.

"You have to be aggressive here," Boudreau said as the convoy reached Al Khalis, and cars, trucks and donkey carts en-

tered the road from both sides.

"You don't want to be trapped. That's what the insurgents want to see."

The convoy arrived at FOB Warhorse without incident. Some ate breakfast while others unloaded the trucks.

A few vehicles get added to the convoy returning to LSA Anaconda. Hill gave pretty much the same cautionary spiel as he had that morning.

The traffic in Al Khalis was still a bother, but the convoy made it through. The river crossing, however, was a farce.

Several convoys had converged on the tender float bridge at the same time from both sides. It would be a four-hour wait for Hill's convoy to cross.

During the wait, he maintained his ever-present nervous look. Some of his soldiers pulled security while others played with the children that inevitably approached U.S. soldiers.

The children asked for handouts — anything from food to pens to sunglasses.

"Give me," they said over and over, pointing at what they wanted.

"They don't know no better," Hill said. By the time the convoy returned through the north gate of Anaconda, all that remained of daylight was a fading streak of orange along the western horizon. The soldiers still had to unload the trucks and refuel them for the next day's mission.

Holub was asked how the soldiers are able to stand the pace for 12 months.

"We don't," she said. "We stand it for nine. We just hang on for the other three."

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Sgt. Marina Kulezov offers a bag of cookies to a young Iraqi boy while the convoy is stopped for a river crossing. The unit makes the trip nearly every day and has befriended the young boy.



# Court-martial to hear alleged 'mercy' killing

Stars and Stripes

A 1st Armored Division officer will stand trial on a charge that he fatally shot an unarmed, wounded Iraqi man while his unit was deployed downrange.

Capt. Rogelio M. Maynulet, 29, of Chicago, now assigned to the 1st Armored Division's Headquarters and Headquarters Company, will be court-martialed on charges of assault with intent to commit murder and dereliction of duty, according to a 1st AD news release.

He faces a maximum combined sentence of 20½ years in prison, said Maj. Michael Inodova, the 1st AD public affairs officer.

While awaiting trial, Maynulet is not in custody and has been "conducting normal

duties as an officer" while his case has been under review, Inodova said.

Maynulet, who at the time of the shooting was commander of Company A, 2nd Battalion, 37th Armor Regiment, faces the charges from a May 21 incident near Kufa, Iraq.

Maynulet was leading his tank company on a patrol when they came across a BMW sedan believed to be carrying a driver for radical Shiite cleric Muqtada al-Sadr and another militiaman loyal to the cleric, whose supporters rose up against U.S. forces twice this year.

U.S. soldiers chased the vehicle and fired shots at it, wounding both the driver and passenger.

When a medic pulled the driver out of the car, it was clear he had suffered critical injuries, with part of his skull blown away, according to testimony during the April 32 hearing.

Maynulet's fellow officer, 1st Lt. Colin Cremin, testified that Maynulet told him he then shot the Iraqi in the back of the

neck or the back of the head.

"It was something he didn't want to do, but it was the compassionate response," Cremin testified. "It was definitely the humane response."

During Maynulet's Article 32 hearing, which is similar to a civilian grand jury, the shooting was described by prosecutors as murder and by others as an "act of mercy."

Maj. Gen. Martin Dempsey, the 1st AD commander, had received the case after the October hearing in Hanau, Germany, found that there was enough evidence for a court-martial. Dempsey decided on Monday to forward the case to a general court-martial.

Inodova said he couldn't release the amount of time it took Dempsey to decide the case.

A judge has yet to be assigned to the case. When that happens, the judge will determine the trial dates and venue and possibly set an arraignment date.

Staff writers Jason Chudy and Kent Harris and The Associated Press contributed to this report.

## Ohio soldier's hearing closes

BAGHDAD — A two-day military court hearing closed Tuesday into the case of a U.S. soldier charged with murdering an Iraqi man and making a false statement regarding the incident.

Spc. Brent May, 22, of Salem, Ohio, is charged with the August murder of an Iraqi civilian in Baghdad's impoverished Sadr City, the scene of fierce clashes between American-led coalition forces and Shiite rebels allied to firebrand anti-U.S. cleric Muqtada al-Sadr. May also faces one charge of falsifying an official statement, or deposition, regarding the alleged murder.

The soldier is attached to Company C, 1st Battalion, 41st Infantry Regiment, from Fort Riley, Kansas, and was charged in September — along with Sgt. Michael P. Williams, 25, of Memphis, Tennessee — with three counts of premeditated murder of three Iraqis.

Williams has not yet been brought before a military court.

From The Associated Press

# Report: CIA warns of growing danger in Iraq

Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — A classified cable sent by the Central Intelligence Agency's station chief in Baghdad has warned that the situation in Iraq is deteriorating and may not rebound any time soon, government officials told The New York Times.

The cable, sent late last month as the officer ended a yearlong tour, presented a bleak assessment on matters of politics, economics and security, the Times reported in its Tuesday editions.

Officials reportedly described the two as-

## Classified cable from Baghdad station chief said Iraqi government must assert authority

sements as "mixed," saying that they did describe Iraq as having made important progress, particularly in terms of its political process, and credited Iraqis with being resilient.

But overall, the officials described the station chief's cable in particular as an unvarnished assessment of the difficulties ahead

in Iraq. They told the Times that it warned that the security situation was likely to get worse, including more violence and sectarian clashes, unless there were marked improvements soon on the part of the Iraqi government, in terms of its ability to assert authority and to build the economy.

Together, the appraisals, which follow

several other such warnings from officials in Washington and in the field, were much more pessimistic than the public picture being offered by the Bush administration, the officials told the paper.

The top American military commander in Iraq, Gen. George W. Casey Jr., reviewed the cable and initially offered no objections, the officials said.

One official said, however, that Casey may have voiced objections in recent days.

# Abizaid: Role of troops in Iraq may be shifting

BY BRADLEY GRAHAM

The Washington Post

CAMP AS SAYLIYAH, Qatar — Army Gen. John Abizaid, the commander of U.S. forces in the Persian Gulf region, raised the possibility Monday that U.S. forces in Iraq could start to be reshaped as early as next year to reduce the number of combat troops and concentrate on the development of Iraqi security forces.

Abizaid declined in an interview to set a timetable for the shift, saying it would depend on the outcome of national elections in January and evidence that Iraqi forces could assume a greater share of combat operations against the country's entrenched insurgency.

This outlook, expressed by Abizaid and other senior U.S. commanders, comes in the face of a series of brazen attacks by insurgents intent on disrupting the elections and terrorizing Iraq's fledgling security services. The violence, together with a campaign of intimidation aimed at those associated with the new governing structures or with the Americans, has deepened perceptions of insecurity, particularly in areas heavily populated by Sunni Arabs. It

also contributed to a Pentagon decision last week to boost the U.S. force to 150,000 troops.

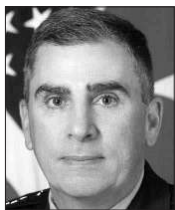
While acknowledging concern about the performance of Iraqi forces and about heavy insurgent activity in such key cities as Mosul, Abizaid said he also saw reasons to be optimistic.

"What's encouraging to me is that despite the very high levels of intimidation, that there are plenty of people within the Sunni Arab community who are coming forward, both politically and militarily, to play a role in the future of their country," the general said.

Abizaid said the reshaping of the force would make combat operations by U.S. and other foreign troops "secondary to the training effort." That would mean, among other changes, "more embedded trainers" and possibly a larger number of special operations forces in place of conventional ones, he said.

The multinational force, he added, would be smaller, more mobile and "more focused on presence than it is on conducting day-to-day combat operations," but it would remain available to back up Iraqi troops if needed.

"We can't predict what's going



Gen. John Abizaid

to happen after the election," he said. "But if the circumstances are such that, as in Afghanistan, the political process leads to better security ... and if the Iraqi security forces start to get in terms of leadership and seasoning in important areas around the country — which I think will happen — then we can talk about reshaping our forces."

The performance of Iraqi forces under fire has been uneven, with many Army and National Guard units tending to hold their ground but local police often proving little match for insurgents. Abizaid acknowledged that the homegrown forces generally "are not as mature as they need to be for the security environment that's going to exist in the next several months," which he said led to the increase in the U.S. force.

# Army reopens investigation into Ranger Tillman's death

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Army has opened a new investigation into the friendly fire death in Afghanistan of Pat Tillman, who quit the NFL to be a Ranger, officials said Monday.

Army officials said Tillman's family sought additional information about circumstances of his April 22 death, but the fundamental account of the battle in which he was killed is not being challenged.

"The family asked questions, and we're looking to get answers to the questions," said Army spokesman Paul Boyce. Officials declined to be more specific.

The Army's Special Operations Command, based at Fort Bragg, N.C., is conducting the investigation, said command spokeswoman Carol Darby.

Then-acting Army Secretary Les Brownlee ordered the new investigation in mid-November based on the family's questions, Army officials said.

The results of original Army investigation were released on May 29.

It found that Tillman was shot to death on April 22 after a U.S. soldier mistakenly fired on a friendly Afghan soldier in Tillman's unit, and other U.S. soldiers then fired in the same direction.

Initial reports by the Army had suggested that Tillman was killed by enemy gunfire when he led his unit to help another group of ambushed soldiers.

Tillman, 27, left his position as a starting

safety for the Arizona Cardinals to join the Army after the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks. He was posthumously promoted from specialist to corporal and received posthumously a Purple Heart and Silver Star. The latter is among the military's highest honors, awarded for gallantry on the battlefield.

No soldiers faced judicial action as a result of his death, but several were disciplined, Darby said.

# Putin says time not yet right for Iraqi elections

BY ALEX NICHOLSON  
The Associated Press

MOSCOW — Russian President Vladimir Putin said Tuesday he could not imagine how Iraqi elections scheduled for Jan. 30 could be held under current conditions.

"Honestly speaking, I cannot imagine how it is possible to organize elections under conditions of total occupation by foreign forces," Putin said during a Kremlin meeting with Iraqi interim Prime Minister Ayad Allawi.

"At the same time, I don't understand how you alone can remedy the situation in the country and prevent its disintegration," Putin said, addressing Allawi.

The Bush administration has said it plans to stick to the Jan. 30 date despite the ongoing violence.

Putin's remarks on the Iraqi

elections followed angry words in the past several days prominently directed at Western countries for their criticism of elections in Ukraine. The victory of a candidate supported by Putin, Viktor Yanukovich, was overturned by the Supreme Court amid allegations of fraud, and a revote with opposition leader Viktor Yushchenko set for Dec. 26.

Many Russian officials and analysts regard U.S. and European criticism not as support for democracy but as an effort to extend Western influence in Ukraine.

Putin also said he expected the interests of Russian companies to be considered in Iraqi reconstruction, given that Russia was willing to join in writing off 80 percent of Iraq's debts to the Paris Club of creditor nations.

Russia, he said, had written off more than other countries,



Russian President Vladimir Putin, right, greets Iraqi interim Prime Minister Ayad Allawi on Tuesday during their meeting at the Kremlin in Moscow. Putin said he could not imagine how Iraqi elections scheduled for Jan. 30 could be held under current conditions.

some 90 percent of what was owed "out of feelings of solidarity for our friends the Iraqi people." The decision has reduced Iraq's debts to Russia to about \$1 billion.

"At the same time we believe that the interests of our country must be taken into account by your leadership and by the future government following the elections," Putin said.

Allawi thanked Putin and said that "doubtless, this will help Russia play a leading role in the reconstruction of Iraq's industry and economy."

"This visit will encourage the restoration of the historic relations between our two people," he said.

Putin has warned before that continued fighting in Iraq was threatening the possibility of a democratic vote.

"All this will definitely call in question the possibility of holding honest and democratic elections in Iraq early next year," he said Friday, during a three-day state visit to India.

A number of Iraq's political parties have urged delay on the elections.

## GI jailed for sex with minor

WÜRZBURG, Germany — A Schweinfurt-based soldier has been sentenced to a year in prison for carrying on a sexual relationship with the 14-year-old daughter of another soldier, according to a case summary from the 1st Infantry Division's Staff Judge Advocate's office.

Pvt. Tyler Hall, 20 of the 1st Battalion, 18th Infantry Regiment, pleaded guilty to one count of carnal knowledge and one count of violating an order at a German court-martial Friday.

On April 2, Hall was pulled over by German police and found to be driving with a U.S. Army Europe driver's license that had been revoked three months earlier because of a drunken-driving offense, the summary said.

Three weeks later, Hall began a relationship with the 14-year-old girl that lasted a month. He had sex with her about 10 times, said Capt. Zahid Qurashi, the military prosecutor, who warned Hall to tell anyone about it because he would get into trouble.

Judge (Lt. Col.) Robin Hall sentenced him to 40 months in prison, total forfeiture of all pay, and a dishonorable discharge. Under the terms of a pretrial agreement, the jail term was limited to 12 months.

Pvt. Hall did not deploy with his 1st Infantry Division unit, which currently is serving in Iraq.

## Musharraf: Focus on training

LONDON — Pakistan President Gen. Pervez Musharraf said Tuesday that the training of Iraqi security forces should be sped up, and suggested his country might help.

Speaking to British lawmakers during a visit to London, Musharraf said the U.S.-led coalition must not abandon Iraq. But without training Iraqi military and police, he said, foreign troops would have no exit strategy.

Such training should be "outsourced" to other countries, he said, and suggested Pakistan might "like to look into how much we can contribute."

## Soldier looks to Canada

TORONTO — An Army private seeking refugee status in Canada after refusing to serve in Iraq told immigration officials on Monday that the war is illegal and would have forced him to commit war crimes.

Pfc. Jeremy Hinzman, 26, fled from Fort Bragg, N.C., on Jan. 2 and lives in Toronto with his 31-year-old wife, Nga Nguyen, and 2-year-old son.

Hinzman told the Immigration and Refugee Board the war in Iraq was illegal and fighting in it would have made him a war criminal. He also said he would be persecuted if forced to return to the United States.

A member of the 82nd Airborne Division, Hinzman could face charges as a deserter if sent home and face up to five years in prison. He left his unit about two weeks after learning his outfit would be sent to Iraq.

## Dutchman to face charges

AMSTERDAM, Netherlands — Prosecutors said Tuesday they will charge a 62-year-old Dutchman as an accomplice to genocide and other war crimes for supplying Saddam Hussein's regime with lethal chemicals that were used in the 1988 chemical attack on the Kurdish town of Halabja.

Wim de Bruin of the national prosecutor's office said the former regime in Baghdad in Amsterdam on Monday will arrest charges "for violating the laws of war and involvement in genocide."

"The man is suspected of delivering thousands of tons of raw materials for chemical weapons to the former regime in Baghdad between 1984 and 1988," prosecutors said in a statement.

From staff and wire reports

# FBI noted harsh treatment at Gitmo



In letter to Army investigator, agents detailed abusive interrogation practices used on terror suspects in Cuba

BY PAISLEY DODDS  
The Associated Press

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico — FBI agents witnessed "highly aggressive" interrogations of terror suspects at the Guantanamo Bay prison camp in 2002, and warned the same questionable techniques could have been used in Iraq after the Abu Ghraib prison scandal broke, according to FBI documents obtained by The Associated Press and the American Civil Liberties Union.

In a letter obtained by AP, a senior Justice Department official suggested the Pentagon didn't act on FBI complaints about four incidents at Guantanamo, including a female interrogator grabbing a detainee's genitals and bending back his thumbs, another where a prisoner was gagged with duct tape and a third where a dog was used to intimidate a detainee who later was thrown into isolation and showed signs of "extreme psychological trauma."

One Marine told an FBI observer that some interrogations led to prisoners "curling into a fetal position on the floor and crying in pain," according to the letter dated July 14, 2004.

Thomas Harrington, an FBI counterterrorism expert who led a team of investigators at Guantanamo Bay, wrote the letter to Maj. Gen. Donald J. Ryder, the Army's chief law enforcement official who is investigating abuses at U.S.-run prisons in Afghanistan, Iraq and at Guantanamo.

Harrington said FBI officials complained about the pattern of abusive techniques to top Defense Department attorneys in January 2003, and it appeared that nothing was done.

A detainee washes himself before praying inside his cell in Camp Delta at Guantanamo Bay Naval Base, Cuba, in June. In a July 14, 2004, letter to Army Maj. Gen. Donald J. Ryder, the FBI complained of harsh interrogations witnessed by agents in 2002.

# Abu Ghraib defendants gain little at hearings

By T.A. BADGER

The Associated Press

FORT HOOD, Texas — After two days of legal hearings, three soldiers accused of abusing detainees at Abu Ghraib are relying on the same legal argument as before: they had no choice but to follow orders from higher-ups inside the notorious Iraqi prison.

On Monday, lawyers for Spc. Charles Graner Jr., considered a ringleader in the abuse scandal, told a bold bid to have charges against him dismissed on the grounds that statements by President Bush and others would make it impossible for him to get a fair trial.

Col. James Pohl, the military judge presiding, rejected that argument, saying what the president, Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld and other top leaders said about Abu Ghraib does not appear specific enough to taint the jury pool for Graner's trial.

But Pohl said he might revisit the issue if it becomes apparent that prospective jurors have been influenced by the degree that Graner's right to a fair trial is jeopardized.

The Army reservist from Uniontown, Pa., is scheduled for trial at Fort Hood beginning Jan. 7.

Sgt. Javali Davis of Roselle, N.J., is set for trial here in early February, and Spc. Sabrina Harman of Lorton, Va., in late March.

Lawyers for Davis have said that they also will argue for dismissal due to unlawful command influence.

Because the president, Rumsfeld and Myers are at the top of Graner's chain of command, defense lawyer Guy Womack argued, their statements add up to unlawful command influence over the yet-to-be-selected jurors.

But Womack conceded under persistent questioning by Pohl that the word "guilty" was never used in any of the statements in question, nor was Graner ever mentioned by name by the high-ranking officials.

Graner is among seven members of the Maryland-based 372nd Military Police Company accused of assaulting and humiliating male detainees at the Baghdad prison in late 2003.

Charges against him include conspiracy to maltreat detainees, assault, committing indecent acts, obstruction of justice and adultery. He faces up to 24 years in prison.

He is accused of jumping on prisoners, stomping their hands and feet, and punching one man in the head hard enough to knock him out and require medical attention.

Womack says Graner was ordered by higher-ranking soldiers and other government agents to go

rough on detainees to soften them up for interrogators.

The judge also rejected Graner's request for testimony from Lt. Gen. Ricardo Sanchez, the Texan who formerly commanded U.S. forces in Iraq, regarding a purported order by the general that detainees be subjected to tougher interrogations.

Davis, however, persuaded Pohl on Saturday to compel Brig. Gen. Janis Karpinski, former commander at Abu Ghraib, to testify at his trial.

But the judge said Karpinski's testimony would be limited in scope to such subjects as conditions inside the prison and the relationship between guards and military interrogators.



Gen. Peter Pace, the vice chairman of the U.S. Joint Chiefs of Staff, left, smiles with unidentified Georgian soldiers at a military base near Tbilisi, Georgia, on Monday. The United States will launch a new \$40 million military training program in Georgia early next year, a top U.S. general said Monday.

## New training program for Georgia

By MISHA DZHINDZHIKHASHVILI

The Associated Press

KRTSANISI, Georgia — The United States will launch a new \$40 million training program in Georgia early next year, a top U.S. general said Monday, reflecting Washington's deepening commitment to the strategically located Caucasus Mountains nation.

"Right now, the plan calls for training four more battalions — two Marine and two logistics," said Gen. Peter Pace, the vice chairman of the U.S. Joint Chiefs of Staff, during a visit to the Georgian

Defense Ministry's Krtsanisi national training center.

He said the new program highlighted Georgia's contribution to the war on terror.

The United States recently concluded a \$64 million program to train four Georgian battalions — more than 2,000 soldiers — in anti-terrorism tactics.

That program started amid growing concerns over the presence in Georgia of rebels from neighboring Chechnya, where Russian forces and separatist fighters have been battling since 1999. Rebels used Georgia's rugged Pankisi Gorge region, just south of Chechnya, for hiding and regrouping.

Russia, which has jealously watched Georgia's efforts to forge closer ties with the West, has been wary about stepped-up U.S. engagement in Georgia, which included deployment of 80 to 100 military trainers.

The new U.S. program, which will involve 70 U.S. instructors, came in response to Georgia's decision to increase its troop size in Iraq from 150 to 850 soldiers next year.

Pace said the new U.S. initiative, called the Sustainability and Stability Operations Program, would focus on training Georgian soldiers to support U.S.-led coalition operations.

## Military radio signal is problematic off base

By JOHN J. LUMPKIN

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Coming soon to dozens of military bases around the country: radio signals strong enough to jam nearby garage-door openers.

Between now and 2008, the military is supplying a new radio system to roughly 125 bases that use the same frequency as the one relied upon by more than 90 percent of the remotely operated openers, Pentagon and industry officials say.

The military radio signal is sometimes so strong that it overpowers the opener's signal, preventing the door from opening.

Or it can also vastly reduce the opener's range, forcing the user to walk close to the garage before it will open. Unless another solution is reached, the consumer will either have to live with the inconvenience or pay to fix the problem.

The cheapest fix would be to manually replace parts of the opener so it will use a different frequency — probably a \$60 job, said Mark Karasek, technical director of a manufacturers' group formed in response to the military radio rollout. Calling a technician to do it for you will probably run double that, he said.

This presumes consumers figure out what is wrong. When a garage door doesn't open, people will generally replace the battery, then the opener itself. A new opener can run \$150 or \$200 before installation.

Government and industry officials are on how widespread the effect will be. The government predicts it will be limited; the industry says it will be worse but wants

more information from the military.

Linton Wells II, Pentagon acting chief information officer, predicted the effect will only be noticed within 10 miles of a base.

But Karasek said interference may be felt as far away as 50 miles.

It is unknown how many garage doors are close enough to one of the 125 bases to be affected, and Pentagon officials refused to list which bases would receive the new radios.



Garage door opener manufacturers compete for a close look at electronic instruments inside a parked vehicle as a garage door in the background refuses to close in Valparaiso, Fla. The group, some from as far away as Germany, were participating in a session in August dealing with problems caused by radio signals from nearby Elgin Air Force Base.

## Woman convicted of killing Air Force husband to be with Army lover

The Associated Press

FAYETTEVILLE, N.C. — A woman has been sentenced to life in prison for killing her husband, an Air Force officer, so she could be with her lover, an enlisted Army soldier.

Michelle Theer, 33, was sentenced after

a jury convicted her on charges of first-degree murder and conspiracy to commit murder in the December 2000 shooting death of Capt. Marty Theer.

Theer's lawyer, Kirk Osborn, said she will appeal the decision.

In closing statements Thursday, prosecutors described Theer as the mastermind be-

hind her husband's death.

They said Theer conspired with Staff Sgt. John Diamond to kill her husband. After the slaying, she fled to Florida and lived there until she was tracked down by authorities.

Diamond is serving a life sentence in a military prison for murdering Marty

Theer.

The defense argued the case was about murder, not adultery, and that the state's case was weak.

Theer was "not on trial for having sex with many men. She is not on trial for having a sexual addiction, if that is what she had," said her lawyer, Kirk Osborn.

## IN THE STATES

## House agrees to vote on intelligence bill

BY JESSE J. HOLLAND

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Republican-controlled House agreed Tuesday to vote to overhaul the nation's intelligence agencies now that President Bush and House Armed Services chairman Duncan Hunter have endorsed a provision guaranteeing battlefield commanders access to top-secret information.

A vote could come late Tuesday, House Intelligence chairman Pete

Hoekstra, R-Mich., said, after getting the approval of the majority of House Republicans at a morning meeting.

While several House Republicans still oppose the compromise version of the bill, Hoekstra is confident the legislation will win the approval of a majority of the House GOP — a condition set by House Speaker Dennis Hastert, R-Ill.

Bush has called on Congress for months to pass legislation implementing the Sept. 11 commission's

recommendations to protect the nation from terrorists. But House GOP leaders have been holding up the bill because of Hunter's concern that it might interfere with the military's ability to get vital information.

But Hunter now supports it because House-Senate negotiators added language to ensure that Defense Department officials would have priority in battlefield areas over the nation's spy satellites and other intelligence equipment.

The California congressman

had worried that a new national intelligence director, a position the legislation would create to coordinate spy agencies, would have been able to insert himself into the chain of command from the president to the commanders in the field.

Lawmakers from both parties expect the bill to pass and said its provisions were long overdue.

"We have not in 50 years changed the intelligence system. We've never walked away from the Cold War model," Sen. Jay

Rockefeller of West Virginia, the ranking Democrat on the Senate Intelligence Committee, said Tuesday on CBS' "The Early Show."

"We now have a bill which will pass both houses, I hope, that will coordinate the intelligence center and head it in the right direction."

Even if some Republicans oppose the bill, supporters in the House and Senate have enough votes to pass the legislation. The legislation also would cement into law the existence of a national counterintelligence center to coordinate the nation's fight against terrorism.



George Smith, 80, of Tenino, Wash., left, and George Brown, 83, of Honolulu, salute before the dedication ceremony for the USS Oklahoma exhibit at the Arizona Memorial Museum in Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, on Monday. A new exhibit was being unveiled to honor the 429 men from the Oklahoma who died in the Dec. 7, 1941, attack.

## Survivors mark anniversary of Pearl Harbor

BY JAYMES SONG

The Associated Press

PEARL HARBOR, Hawaii — As Goodyear was standing on a signal bridge on the starboard side of the USS Oklahoma in 1941 when bombs started falling from the sky and torpedoes

exploded, screams, chaos and gunfire shattered the calm morning of that Dec. 7, and within 12 minutes, the massive battleship rolled over and capsized, trapping hundreds of men below deck.

Sixty-three years later, Goodyear, 86, and a dwindling number of survivors returned to the site of their most haunting memories to honor the 429 men from the Oklahoma and nearly 2,000 others who died in the Japanese sneak attack that plunged the United States into World War II.

"There's a great bond between us," Goodyear said.

Goodyear was a 23-year-old petty officer in 1941 whose life was saved when, after he jumped into the burning waters of the harbor, someone threw him a line

from the USS Maryland and he was able to pull himself up.

The USS Oklahoma suffered the second-highest number of Pearl Harbor casualties, behind the USS Arizona, whose most of its 1,177 killed crewmen remain entombed after the ship sank.

The anniversary was marked with simultaneous ceremonies Tuesday aboard the USS Arizona Memorial above that sunken battleship, and on shore. Each ceremony featured a moment of silence at 7:55 a.m. — the minute the attack started.

Goodyear, head of the USS Oklahoma Survivors Association, joined four other survivors and about two dozen friends and family Monday evening for the unveiling of a permanent exhibit on the Oklahoma. Although they were pleased with the small exhibit in the Arizona museum, survivors of the USS Oklahoma are considering a permanent memorial.

Goodyear said he also wants the USS Arizona Memorial's name changed to the Pearl Harbor Memorial or the Memorial of the Pacific. The National Park Service, which operates the Arizona Memorial, said it is considering changing the name and broadening the museum's scope.

## WTC attacks deemed separate

BY LARRY NEUMEISTER

The Associated Press

NEW YORK — The Sept. 11 attack on the World Trade Center was two separate occurrences for insurance purposes, a federal jury decided, meaning leaseholder Larry Silverstein stands to collect up to \$4.6 billion.

The trial, which ended after 11 days of deliberations, was the first in which jurors were asked to decide whether the terrorist attack that killed 2,749 people could be considered two attacks since two planes hit two separate towers.

The verdict Monday in U.S. District Court in Manhattan was the latest twist in Silverstein's efforts to file separate claims for \$7 bil-

lion, or two full payouts under the \$3.5 billion worth of insurance coverage he took out on the trade center complex.

Silverstein lost a first trial on the issue earlier this year, but a separate jury said Monday that Silverstein is entitled to collect a double payout from nine insurers who accounted for \$1.1 billion of the overall coverage.

In the earlier trial, the jury rejected Silverstein's contention that an insurance document defining the attack as one event did not bind some of the 24 insurance companies holding the bulk of the coverage.

Silverstein still must go to a three-person appraisal panel to collect the money. The insurers

are expected to appeal the decision.

In a statement, Silverstein said he was thrilled with the verdict and cast it as a victory for all New Yorkers because it secures additional money to rebuild the trade center complex.

Regardless of the insurance payout, Silverstein and redevelopment officials have promised to rebuild the trade center complex in the next decade.

The insurance companies involved in the case were: Travelers Indemnity Co., Industrial Risk Insurers, Royal Indemnity Co., Allianz Insurance Co., Tokio Marine and Fire Insurance Co., Twin City Fire Insurance Co., TIG Insurance Co., Westfield WTC LLC and Zurich American Insurance Co.

## Supreme Court mulls wine issue

BY HOPE YEN

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — State laws barring people from buying wine directly from out-of-state suppliers should be struck down as unconstitutional, the Supreme Court was told Tuesday, as it heard arguments in a case that could lead to sweeping changes on how alcoholic beverages are regulated and sold.

Justices heard arguments in three appeals involving laws in Michigan and New York that allow direct interstate, but not out-of-state, shipments. The dispute pits regulators and wholesalers against out-of-state wineries that want to sell alcohol to consumers, mostly over the Internet or by phone.

"A state power over alcohol has ebbed and flowed over the years, but one principle has remained constant: States may regulate alcohol by only one set of rules," said Clint Bolick, who represents a family-run winery in Virginia that says the laws are discriminatory.

Michigan solicitor general Thomas L. Casey, who says states must control the distribution of alcohol as they see fit to protect minors, disagreed: "There are substantial differences between policing interstate wineries and those out of state."

Several justices appeared troubled by the notion of unequal treatment, although they also seemed uncertain about whether overturning state laws that have been in place since Prohibition was the solution.

The case involves a clash between two parts of the Constitution, with lower courts divided over which section should hold sway.

On one side is the 21st Amendment, which ended Prohibition in 1933 and explicitly grants states authority to regulate alcohol sales. Twenty-four states have laws that generally require outside wineries to sell their products through licensed wholesalers in the state. Michigan and New York allow interstate Internet or telephone sales of alcoholic beverages. Some other states allow such sales, others do not.

The Constitution also implicitly prohibits states from passing laws that discriminate against out-of-state businesses. That provision has been embraced by wine makers who hope to reach faraway Internet customers looking for favorite U.S. vintages unavailable in their home states.

While the 2nd U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals sided with New York in upholding the state restrictions, the 6th Circuit, based in Cincinnati, struck down Michigan's laws as unconstitutionally protectionist. The stakes are high in the \$21.6 billion wine industry.

## Agency: Foreign flu shots coming to U.S. to help with shortage

WASHINGTON — The government said Tuesday that flu vaccine manufactured in Germany was safe enough to be used in the United States and that as many as 4 million doses would be available to alleviate the U.S. shortage.

Health and Human Services Secretary Tommy Thompson said the government was immediately buying 1.2 million doses of the vaccine, called FluVirx, which will be available this month, and said British manufacturer GlaxoSmithKline had agreed to make about 3 million more doses available later.

The German-made vaccine, FluVirx, has not been licensed for use in the United States, so it will be available as an investigational new drug, meaning that it can be used but patients will have to sign a consent form acknowledging there could be risks.

From The Associated Press



# 300 Chicago firefighters battle blaze

BY MAURA KELLY LANNAN

The Associated Press

CHICAGO — A stubborn fire raged for 5½ hours on the 29th floor of a historic downtown skyscraper, shooting flames from windows and sending at least 37 people to hospitals, most of them firefighters who suffered smoke inhalation. Some injuries were serious, but no deaths were reported.

Streets around the Art Deco-style building, the corporate headquarters of LaSalle Bank in the city's downtown Loop business district, were closed to pedestrians and traffic early Tuesday as officials investigated the cause and tried to determine if the building was structurally sound.

More than 300 firefighters battled the blaze Monday night, shooting water into the windows and sometimes standing on the building's wedding cake-like tiers to gain better access.

Of the 37 people injured, 22 were firefighters in moderate to serious condition, said fire commissioner Cortez Trotter. Most were being treated for smoke inhalation or minor injuries, officials said.

Bob Bailey, a partner in a commercial real estate law firm on the building's 39th floor, said he had to keep his head outside a window or near the ground because of the smoke until firefighters came and led



Chicago police and firefighters work near the scene of a high-rise building fire as smoke pours out of the building on Monday in Chicago. Authorities say 18 people were taken to the hospital.

him down an elevator. "We had our windows open in the office, and I had to put my coat on the door, so that smoke wouldn't start rolling in," he said. "For a while, we weren't sure we were going to make it."

The fire at 135 S. LaSalle Street was reported about 6:30 p.m. and extinguished about midnight. Thick black smoke poured out of windows, and metal window frames were twisted by the heat of the blaze on the 29th and 30th floors.

More than one-third of the city's fire equipment was at the scene, and suburban fire departments sent crews into the city to act as backup.

## Possible ecoterrorism considered in Md. fires

BY STEPHEN MANNING

The Associated Press

INDIAN HEAD, Md. — Investigators suspect arson in the fires that burned more than 40 homes in a posh subdivision under construction near a nature preserve, and the FBI said it would look into ecoterrorism as a possible motive.

Some \$10 million in damage was done as 41 homes burned Monday at the Hunters Brooke subdivision, about 25 miles south of Washington. A dozen of the homes were destroyed.

Environmental and community groups tried to block the development in a lawsuit last year that claimed it would hurt one of the nation's last undisturbed magnolia bogs.

Investigators confirmed arson caused the fires in at least four homes near Indian Head in Charles County, said Faron Taylor, a deputy state fire marshal. "We are not going to reveal where in the homes the fires were set, or the method of ignition," Taylor said Monday. "Only the (suspects) and us know that, and we're not going to tip our hand."

No injuries had been reported. FBI spokesman Barry Maddox said ecoterrorism was one of the motives that would be investigated. Agents from the state fire mar-

shal's office and the federal Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives were also investigating.

The Sierra Club called the development of more than 300 homes "quintessential sprawl" in its Fall 2000 sprawl report, noting it is far from existing infrastructure and "threatens a fragile wetland and important historical sites near the Chesapeake Bay." The Sierra Club issued a statement Monday saying it "strongly condemns all acts of violence in the name of the environment."

In recent years, radical environmentalists have set fires at luxury housing developments under construction in San Diego and Detroit's outer suburbs and at a resort in Vail, Colorado.

Environmental groups and some county residents sued the Environmental Protection Agency and the Army Corps of Engineers last year, claiming they had violated the Clean Water Act by granting permits that allowed construction at the Maryland site.

On July 23, U.S. District Judge Peter Messitte denied a request for an injunction against construction of the development, but ordered the Army Corp to provide a "more complete explanation" of its decision authorizing the sewer line and road in the subdivision. That same day, the Army Corp filed an appeal of that decision.

Message for our men and women in uniform...

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# Ohio finally certifies presidential election

BY ANDREW WELSH-HUGGINS  
The Associated Press

COLUMBUS, Ohio — While Ohio had certified a 2 percent age-point election victory for President Bush, scrutiny of the vote was expected to continue for several more days.

Independent recounts were prepared to demand recounts in all 88 counties Tuesday, action that election boards say they're ready for but don't believe is necessary.

"Our experience with recounts based on our system in Allen County show either no change in our count, or one or two votes possibly," said Keith Cunningham, the county's election board director and incoming president of the Ohio Association of Election Board Directors.

## Recounts pending in the tightest of races

Secretary of State Kenneth Blackwell certified Bush as the winner Monday based on official results from county election boards, with the final tally of 2.86 million votes for the Republican, or about 51 percent of the vote, and 2.74 million or 49 percent for Democrat John Kerry.

The 118,775-vote lead was closer than unofficial election night results but not enough to trigger a mandatory recount. Absentee ballots and provisional votes counted after election night made most of the difference.

"Elections are human endeavors and as such they are never perfect," said Blackwell, a Republican. "But I can say with the fullest of confidence that this election in Ohio was perfectly inspiring."

The election hung on Ohio, a battleground state prized for its 20 electoral votes. Not until the morning after the election did Kerry, presented with the state's results, finally concede.

Presidential candidates for the Green and Libertarian parties raised the \$113,600 needed to pay for the recount under Ohio law, and will receive individual checks to all 88 counties.

Counties have 10 days to start those recounts, allowed under state law, following Blackwell's certification.

The recount's goal is "to ensure that every citizen's vote is properly counted," said John Bonifaz, general counsel for the Boston-based National Voting Rights

Institute, which represents the independent candidates.

The candidates, David Cobb of the Green Party and Michael Bednarik of the Libertarian Party, together received less than 0.5 percent of the Ohio vote.

Recount advocates have cited numerous Election Day problems, from long lines, a shortage of voting machines in predominantly minority neighborhoods and suspicious vote totals for candidates in scattered precincts.

Republicans said the recount won't change anything.

"If there's a recount, there's going to be two losers — John Kerry and the Ohio taxpayer," said Mark Weaver, a lawyer representing the Ohio Republican

Party. "It's going to cost more than \$1.5 million to find out what we already know."

The amount the independent candidates have raised is based on state law calculating the cost of a recount to be \$10 a precinct, but Blackwell's office has said a more realistic price tag is \$1.5 million.

A Friday ruling by U.S. District Court Judge Edmund Sargus, striking down Delaware County's attempt to stop a recount, ensured the process will go forward.

The Rev. Jesse Jackson said Monday the Ohio Supreme Court should investigate Bush's win in Ohio because of "massive problems" with the voting.

The required filing with the Supreme Court planned for Monday, was put off until at least Tuesday because of its complexity, said Cliff Arnebeck, a Columbus attorney representing the voters.

## Brace yourself for the flood of cause bracelets

BY MARTHA IRVINE  
The Associated Press

CHICAGO — Jennifer Longley wears her yellow bracelet in honor of her many relatives who have had cancer, including a grandfather who lost his tongue and voice and an aunt who died of ovarian cancer.

"I also wear it for me, because I know that this is something that I will continue to deal with in my future," says Longley, a 24-year-old who works for the Cornell University Press in Ithaca, N.Y.

Jason "Jazz" Skipworth, a 26-year-old scientist at the Fox Chase Cancer Center in Philadelphia, says his bracelet gives him "the extra motivation to work that much harder."

Eric Nobis, an amateur bike rider in Seattle, is convinced that his bracelet "makes me cycle faster."

It's just a simple band of yellow rubber, which bears the word "LIVESTRONG" and sells for \$1 as a fund-raiser for the Lance Armstrong Foundation, an organization the celebrity cyclist began for fellow cancer survivors. But the yellow bracelet has become a must-have item — and has prompted charitable organizations nationwide to create their own versions, made with various colors, materials and messages.

Some liken the fad to the POW-MIA bracelets people wore for imprisoned and missing soldiers during the Vietnam War, or say the bracelets are the latest twist on the red and pink ribbons that have become synonymous with AIDS and breast cancer, respectively.

Now red bracelets are being sold to raise money for everything from diabetes research to children with HIV. Vistacare, a health care company in San Antonio, Ariz., is giving out burgundy bracelets with the word "Remember" to get people talking about the difficult topic of hospice care.

And Monday, the Ohio Tobacco Use Prevention and Control Foundation will start handing out orange bracelets as a conversation starter about the dangers of secondhand smoke.

Genny Neely, a 27-year-old New Yorker, is interested in getting several of the bracelets. She first saw the LIVESTRONG bands while visiting Chicago last summer and said, "I'd like to have one of these."

Now she plans to get a red one from the My Soldier campaign, a program started by an Iraq war veteran that connects U.S. soldiers with civilians who send them letters and care packages. It is a way to show support for a military life, she says.

Sometimes, however, the bracelet wearers are just fashionistas.

Jennifer Gear, a mom in Woburn, Mass., con-



Jennifer Longley, of Ithaca, N.Y., shows off her yellow "LIVESTRONG" bracelet Wednesday that she wears to honor her relatives who have had cancer. The bracelets are a fund-raiser for the Lance Armstrong Foundation to help cancer survivors.

### A bracelet for every cause

Some examples of organizations with fund-raiser bracelets, arranged by color:

**RED:** The Diabetes Research Institute is raising funds with its "Insulin Is Not a Cure" bracelets. <http://www.DRI.net.org>

**BLUE:** This month, the nonprofit Keep a Child Alive will begin selling bracelets to raise funds for children with HIV/AIDS. <http://www.KeepaChildAlive.org>

**ORANGE:** Sydney Davis and her friend Daniel Ross, friends from New Jersey who both have juvenile diabetes, are selling bracelets in honor of their 13th birthdays. The bracelets, available at the Naomi Berrie Diabetes Center at Columbus-Presbyterian hospital in New York, carry the words "Cure Diabetes Today." <http://nbiabetes.org>

**GREEN:** Seven stores will soon have bracelets to raise money for the USO, which provides support to members of the military.

**ALUMINUM:** HeroBracelets.org is selling blue bracelets with the name of a soldier killed in Iraq. Proceeds go to the Fallen Heroes Fund.

From The Associated Press

cedes that her 9-year-old begged her for "one of those yellow bracelets that everybody has" without really knowing what they represent.

But, she says, "My feeling is, 'What difference does it make if it's going to a good cause?'"

Still other kids, in a small way, the various bracelets help build a sense of community.

## Experts: Food supply in danger from terror

BY LAURA MECKLER  
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The nation's food supply remains vulnerable to a bioterror attack, experts say, though new rules will help investigators track where in the chain of production and distribution an item may have been tainted.

The regulation, announced Monday by the Food and Drug Administration, aims to trace the source of food contamination after the fact. Most businesses involved in the nation's human and animal food supply will have to keep records showing where they received food and where they shipped it.

An attack on the food supply could happen, say experts led by Health and Human Services Secretary Tommy Thompson, who said last week that he worries "every single night" about a possible terrorist attack on the food supply.

"For the life of me, I cannot understand why the terrorists have not attacked our food supply because it is so easy to do," Thompson said.

## Carter's grandson arrested

The Associated Press

PEACHTREE CITY, Ga. — A teenage grandson of former President Jimmy Carter has been charged with burglary and possession of marijuana after police said he broke into a house of a former friend and took a video game console.

Jeremy Carter, 17, also was charged with being a minor in possession of alcohol and was released Sunday on \$11,500 bond.

The high school senior is the son of Annette and Jeff Carter, Jimmy Carter's youngest son. "My son is innocent. This is ridiculous. He will be exonerated," Jeff Carter said Monday night.

son said at a news conference announcing his resignation.

Thompson singled out the possibility that infected food would be imported from the Middle East, but experts say the threat is equally serious for food produced domestically.

"There are any number of threats, and they range from what's done across the oceans to what's done in the kitchen in the restaurant that you're eating in," said Michael Osterholm, associate director of the National Center for Food Protection and Defense at the University of Minnesota, a project of the Department of Homeland Security.

The new regulation is the fourth in a series of FDA rules implementing a 2002 bioterrorism law, passed after the 2001 anthrax attacks.

These are common sense rules that will help FDA trace the source of contamination, but they don't do anything to prevent attacks, said Caroline Smith DeWulfe, a former Food and Drug Administration official at the Center for Science in the Public Interest.

Deanna Congello, spokeswoman for the former president, declined to comment.

A woman whose son used to be friends with Jeremy Carter but now attends school in Florida said the teen broke into her house Saturday night and ran out with a video game console. Kay Beckom said another son and his friends confronted Carter outside, brought him back inside and police were called.

According to warrants issued by a Fayette County magistrate, Carter had a plastic bag of marijuana in his left shoe, and his breath smelled of alcohol.

# Eight times a mother's love

Center learns Aurora the octopus was right in devotion to her eggs

BY MARY PEMBERTON  
The Associated Press

ANCHORAGE, Alaska — It was a May-December romance that really had legs: Young Aurora, a female giant octopus and her aging cephalopod suitor J-1 were thrown together for a blind date seven months ago by aquarists who hoped the two would mate.

By all appearances, their fling was a success, and Aurora began dribbling long strings of eggs down the sides of her tank the following month. Though her sweetheart died of old age in September, the pitter-patter of tiny tentacles seemed close at hand.

But those tens of thousands of eggs remained pearly white with no signs of developing, and aquarists at the Alaska Sealife Center — concluding that the eggs were likely sterile — began draining Aurora's 3,600-gallon tank so she could be removed from display.

Then, last week, a sharp-eyed intern at the center in Seward noticed something peculiar in each of the eggs: two red dots.

"I asked if that was normal," said 24-year-old Meghan Kokal.

It was — for baby octopus eyes.

Under a microscope, aquarists saw developing eyes and pulsing mantles. A brief meeting was held. It was decided that Aurora would stay in her tank after all.

"We started to fill it up again," Hocking said.

To her credit, Aurora had never given up. Day in and day out for months, she sent waves of water out through her siphon to gently cleanse her egg down, and defended them against hungry sea cucumbers and starfish.

Aurora probably had some moments of "quiet desperation" last Tuesday while several hundred gallons of water were drained from her tank, said aquarium curator Richard Hocking.

As the water went down, one of the aquarists placed some of the eggs that had fallen from the sides of the tank on a rock shelf.

Even then, Aurora persevered. "She didn't want to leave them. As the water was going down, she was going down with it. She would spray a burst of water on the rocks on top of them," Kokal said.

Aurora and J-1 surprised everyone on the morning of May 11 when they hit it off almost immediately after their introduction, embracing for hours in a dark corner of the tank, which is part of



ALASKA SEALIFE CENTER/AP

Aurora, a giant Pacific octopus, watches her eggs Dec. 1 at the Alaska Sealife Center in Seward, Alaska. Despite months of meticulous tending, Aurora's eggs — the whitespots at the bottom — showed no signs of developing into baby octopus until two very small red dots on each egg were spotted. The dots are baby octopuses' eyes developing.

the center's "Denizens of the Deep" exhibit.

At 5 years of age, J-1 — who up until meeting Aurora had lived a strictly bachelor life — was con-

and his suckers were pocked with divots.

Though the two had canoodled intensely days before, J-1 began acting cranky with Aurora and he was removed from her tank. Female Giant Pacific octopuses can choose to conceive in what is known as delayed fertilization. Apparently, J-1 had the right stuff, and the privacy was just what Aurora needed, as she began laying eggs just a few days later.

J-1 died on Sept. 8. Perhaps none or as many as a few thousand of the eggs could survive, Hocking said.

Kokal, who is working on a degree in environmental science from Northern Arizona University, likes the idea of several thousand baby octopuses at the center.

"That would be very nice," she said.

*Aurora never gave up. Day in and day out, she defended her eggs against hungry sea cucumbers and starfish.*

sidered elderly for his species, the largest octopus in the world. He was already in a period of decline that occurs before an octopus dies; his skin was eroding,

# U.S. lags behind other nations in teens' math skills

BY BEN FELLER  
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Compared with their peers in Europe, Asia and elsewhere, U.S. 15-year-olds are below average when it comes to applying math skills to real-life tasks, new test scores show.

The U.S. students were behind most other countries in overall math literacy and in every specific area tested in 2003, from geometry and algebra to statistics and computation.

The latest scores from the Program for International Student Assessment also show that white U.S. students scored above average, while blacks and Hispanics scored below it. That achievement gap has become the focus of federal education policy.

Outgoing Education Secretary Rod Paige called the new scores a "blinking warning light" as the Bush administration seeks to raise expectations and expand testing in high school.

The international test is not a measure of grade-level curriculum, but rather a gauge of 15-year-olds' skills and how well students can apply them to problems they may face in life.

It also aims to give the United States an external reality check about how it is doing.

Jack Jennings of the independent Center on Education Policy said the test is more a measure of how math is taught than what students know. Many U.S. math classes teach analytical or theoretical thinking, not everyday math application.

"You could have American kids knowing more math, it's just that they may test lower than other countries because their learning is not geared toward practical application," he said.

By comparison, scale scores on the United States' own math test, the National Assessment of Educational Progress, have risen sharply for fourth-graders and eighth-graders since 1990. That test, however, differs in its content and in that it is geared by grade, not by age.

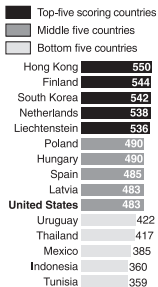
The international assessment measures math, reading and science literacy among 15-year-olds every three years. This time, the main focus was math.

Among 29 industrialized coun-

## Mediocre math

The United States scored in the median range of math literacy compared to other countries, according to an international test taken of 15-year-olds in 2003.

**Average math literacy scores of 15-year-old students by country, 2003**



SOURCE: Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development

tries, the United States scored below 20 nations and above five in math. The U.S. performance was about the same as Poland, Hungary and Spain.

When compared with all 39 nations that produced scores, the United States was below 23 countries, above 11 and about the same as four others, with Latvia joining the middle group.

"We cannot afford to let the skills of our students fall behind the skills of students in other nations," said Joseph Tuohy, chairman of the education task force of the Business Roundtable, an association of chief executive officers from major U.S. corporations.

The test is run by the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, a Paris-based intergovernmental group of industrialized countries. The top math performers included Finland, Korea, the Netherlands, Japan, Canada, Belgium, Switzerland and New Zealand.

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## OPINION

# That strengthens parties weakens process

**WASHINGTON** The more the academics and analysts explore the entrails of last month's election, the clearer and simpler the lesson becomes. As the Clinton folks might put it, "it's the partisanship, stupid."

**David Broder**

Democrats did a first-class job of mobilizing their supporters and bringing them to the polls. But Republicans did an even better job, and that is essentially why they won.

The anatomy of the Nov. 2 voting is intriguing in itself, but its implications for the future of politics and government are even more important. It signals a protracted period of two-party competition and means that Republicans and Democrats alike will face intense pressure to keep their coalitions intact.

Democrats, who came out on the short end of the 51-48 percent presidential popular vote and also lost seats for the second election in a row in both the House and Senate, cannot afford any more defections. Losses among women, minorities and what remains of their Southern base would make the task of a comeback all the more difficult.

It surely was no coincidence that President Bush began taking steps to split that Democratic coalition with his very first appointments to his second-term administration: Condoleezza Rice, a black woman with Southern roots and a California connection, to run the State Department; Margaret Spellings, another woman and a Texan, to run the

Department of Education; and two high-profile Hispanics, Alberto Gonzales and Carlos Gutierrez, to lead the Justice and Commerce departments, respectively.

But it is not only Democrats who have to worry about coalition-maintenance. Republicans and Bush in particular are equally dependent on keeping the flock intact. Bush did not beat John Kerry among independents. Kerry won almost 9 out of 10 Democratic votes and prevailed narrowly among independents. Bush won only by turning out massive numbers of Republicans and capturing more than 9 out of 10 of their votes.

What was true of Kerry and Bush applied almost equally to the races for the Senate, the House and governorships. ... House Republican candidates received more than 8 of 10 Republican votes, while Democratic candidates received 3 of 4 Democratic votes. It was not surprising that House Speaker Dennis Hastert did not want to let Democratic lawmakers pass the president's intelligence reorganization plan over the opposition of many Republicans. To do so would alienate him from his flock, and perhaps put some of them at risk with their voters.

All this is a far cry from the pattern of government and politics with which we became familiar during the Cold War. As John Kenneth White of Catholic University points out in one of the clearest and most succinct of the many post-election analyses that have crossed my desk, from 1952 through 1988, Republicans won the White House seven of 10 times, but rarely were able to disturb Democratic control of Congress.

From Dwight Eisenhower through the first President Bush, the voting public generally trusted Republicans to manage international affairs, keep the communists at bay, assure a strong defense and run the economy. Democrats in Congress were preferred



to look after the down-home concerns, such as Social Security, Medicare, education and the rest.

But that pattern of divided government has been decisively broken. ... Part of the story is the change in the South, where conservative Democrats once prevailed. Now, their House and Senate seats are occupied by Republicans. ...

But partisans on both sides in other regions are also recognizing the genuine differences between Republicans and Democrats and are choosing sides accordingly. Some of those differences are ideological.

Some are cultural, including the issues of faith and religion, which drew so much atten-

tion in the immediate aftermath of the election.

But the overwhelming factor, the one that ties it all together, is the simple pull of partisan allegiance — the hold that each of the parties exerts on its own followers.

Where there is strong partisanship in the electorate, White reminds us, we are likely to see partisanship in government as well. The significance of party to the 2004 vote means that compromise between the two parties-in-government is unlikely, White writes.

Keep that in mind when the next Congress begins.

David Broder is a member of Washington Post Writers Group.

# Insurgents seemingly unaffected by troop levels

**BY RICHARD HART SINNREICH**

**G**radualism rarely is a productive way to apply military power. War, as theorist Carl Clausewitz reminded us, is not just the application of force against an unresisting object. Enemies adapt, and piecemeal combat power allows them that much more freedom to do it.

All of which is relevant to Iraq troop levels — which, the Pentagon announced last week, will climb for the next few months to 150,000, the highest level since the war began. Only about 1,500 will be troops not already scheduled to deploy. The rest of the increase will come from extending the tours of the units the new deployments were intended to replace.

That's likely to arouse justifiable unhappiness among affected soldiers and their families. For all the benefits of unit rotation, raising expectations only to shatter them isn't one. As many have noted, the human burdens of this war are being borne by a small number of our citizens in and out of uniform. Overstraining their undoubted dedication isn't wise.

But the broader question is what, in a military sense, 12,000 more troops for a few months will buy us. In that connection, recent trends are anything but encouraging.

This year alone U.S. troop levels in Iraq rose from 115,000 in February, to 130,000 in March, to 138,000 in May, to 140,000 in July, before dipping to 138,000 in September. During the same period, insurgent attacks on coalition forces, never mind Iraqi, rose from around 400 a month to 2,400.

That's an ominous correlation. It suggests that the insurgents have been able not only to withstand incremental U.S. troop increases but also to expand their operations significantly despite them.

There's no obvious reason to expect that another marginal troop increase will reverse that pattern. On the contrary, official announcement of the increase as merely a measure to dampen violence in advance of January's scheduled election offers the insurgents every incentive to ride it out.

Even the official scarcity of U.S. forces in relation to Iraq's populated geography, that shouldn't be too difficult. From the outset, the military problem in Iraq has never been insufficient troops to defeat the enemy in battle, but rather insufficient troops to secure what they've won.

Now that we've belatedly decided to clear the insurgents from urban strongholds such as Samarra and Fallujah rather than hoping they would disarm, the problem is likely to mount. Each local success implies a subsequent requirement to secure the cleared lo-

cality, and troops committed to such occupation can't also continue to attack.

Nor, apparently, can we count on Iraq's fledgling security forces to bail us out. Even the most encouraging reports of their performance confirm that their reliability and effectiveness depend entirely on their continued integration with better-equipped, -trained and led coalition forces. Turning cleared areas over to them, stock and barrel isn't feasible yet.

Meanwhile ... all indications are that January may well see the departure or reduction of some current allied contingents. Presuming that these cutbacks would not include our British allies, the military consequences would be relatively modest, however uncomfortable the political ramifications. But they certainly wouldn't help.

All of which suggests that, as has been

true from the first day of the invasion, this is America's war to win or lose. Barring an unlikely change of heart by those with little reason to have one, we had better start thinking seriously about what it will take to win it.

The odds are that continued gradualism won't. The temptation is to blame it on politicians. ... But that doesn't excuse military commanders who should know better and who repeatedly have insisted that they have all the troops they need even as events just as repeatedly have proved otherwise. A brand new lieutenant would blush at so consistent a pattern of military misjudgment.

That also happened 40 years ago, and we're still paying the price. Even the most stubborn leaders should be reluctant to risk making the same mistake again.

Richard Hart Sinnreich writes about military affairs for the Lawton, Okla., Sunday Constitution. This column first appeared in The Washington Post.

## Mallard Fillmore

**BY BRUCE TINSLEY**



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## IN THE WORLD

## Karzai sworn in as Afghan president

BY STEPHEN GRAHAM  
The Associated Press

KABUL, Afghanistan — Afghan President Hamid Karzai took the helm Tuesday of a country whose revival is threatened by a surging drug trade and a stubbornly persistent Taliban insurgency, pledging in his inaugural address to bring stability and prosperity, even as rebels launched a fresh wave of deadly attacks near the Pakistani border.

With the speeches over and foreign dignitaries departing his solemn swearing-in ceremony, the affable Karzai will come under growing pressure to heal ethnic divisions and repair this war-ravaged country's decrepit infrastructure, challenges that promise to linger throughout his five-year mandate.

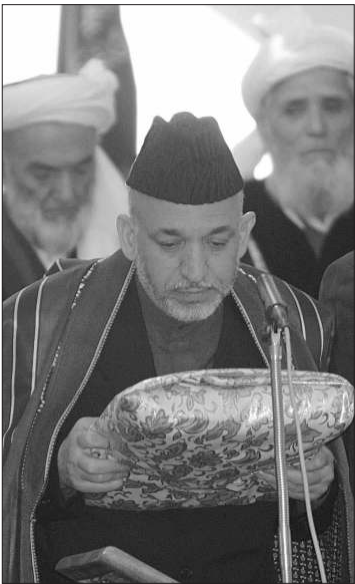
Wearing his trademark green robe and lambskin hat and with his right hand on a copy of Islam's holy book, the Quran, Karzai appeared jittery as he repeated an oath of allegiance read to him by Afghanistan's white-bearded chief justice.

Still, he recovered his poise in a confident speech before 600 guests, including U.S. Vice President Dick Cheney and Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld, outlining his agenda to meet ordinary Afghans' sky-high expectations.

He singled out America — which still has 18,000 troops stationed in Afghanistan and is providing billions in other aid — for particular thanks, while underlining the continued need of international support.

"Our fight against terrorism is not yet over," he said, warning of a deadly nexus also with extremism and drug trafficking. "A decisive victory over terrorism requires serious and continuous cooperation at regional and international levels."

Afghan and international forces came to protect Karzai's inauguration, mounted the largest security operation since the Oct. 9 election that gave him a landslide



Afghan President Hamid Karzai holds the Quran as he is sworn in as Afghanistan's first popularly elected president at a ceremony in Kabul's Presidential Palace on Tuesday.

victory. Still, overnight assaults near the Pakistani frontier that left 12 dead provided a reminder of threats to the country's stability.

Dozens of suspected Taliban rebels armed with assault rifles and rockets attacked an Afghan

military base in Khost province, sparking a fire-fight that left four Afghan soldiers and at least six militants dead, an Afghan commander said.

Also in Khost, insurgents opened fire before dawn on Tuesday on a U.S. patrol, which shot

back and killed two of the assailants, U.S. spokesman Maj. Mark McCann said. No Americans were reported hurt.

Efforts by militants to launch a rocket toward Kabul on Monday evening, however, were less successful, a NATO spokesman said. The rocket landed harmlessly on a cattle farm outside the city limits.

Cheney, the most senior American official to visit Afghanistan since the Taliban were ousted three years ago, emerged from brief talks with Karzai to laud him as a wise leader and an admired international statesman.

Later, he said the establishment of a democracy in Kabul was necessary to Afghanistan's "basic, fundamental transformation."

"It has to happen, if you will, if we're going to win the war on terrorism," Cheney said on NBC's "Today" show. Democracies form people who "are focused on their own lives and focused on building a free society."

Rumsfeld, who like Cheney left Afghanistan on Tuesday evening, cautioned that the military mission here is not over.

"There are still groups, extremists, that would like to take this country back — the Taliban, the al-Qaida — and use it for a base for terrorist activities around the world as they did on 9/11," Rumsfeld told a group of special forces soldiers at Bagram Air Base, north of Kabul. "But it's not going to happen."

The vice president recounted the role of U.S. forces in destroying the Taliban regime, which had harbored the al-Qaida terrorist network blamed for the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks.

"The dictatorship that harbored the most vicious terrorist network in history was now history," Cheney said.

He cautioned that work remains to be done.

"Freedom still has enemies here in Afghanistan, and you are here to make those enemies miserable," he said.

## Security at Consulate is praised

The Associated Press

JIDDAH, Saudi Arabia — Islamic militants who shot their way into the heavily fortified U.S. Consulate, killing five employees, clearly had studied how cars entered the compound, the U.S. ambassador said Tuesday, praising actions that stopped the assault but acknowledging room for improvement.

Ambassador James C. Oberwetter thanked Saudi forces for "freeing the compound" and said Marine guards inside performed their duty heroically. Saudi officials, meanwhile, said four assailants were Saudis and that a fifth person killed hadn't yet been identified.

None of the three assailants identified Tuesday. Fayer bin Awad al-Juhani, Eid bin Dakhil Allah al-Juhani, Hassan bin Hamid al-Hazimi — appear on the kingdom's list of 26 most wanted militants. The statement did not say whether the al-Juhani were related, or provide details about them. Assailants believed linked to al-Qaida shot their way through a gate in Monday's bold assault on the compound, but were killed or captured before penetrating consular buildings inside.

Five consulate employees — one Yemeni, a Sudanese, a Filipino, a Pakistani and a Sri Lankan — were killed and another four were injured. Consul-general Gina Abernethy-Winstanley said two American staff were slightly wounded, and one was up and about Tuesday.

Oberwetter, speaking to journalists at a Jiddah hotel, praised the consulate's security measures, saying the attackers' car was able to reach the gate but no further, and the attackers had to enter the grounds on foot. Still, he said, "the events of yesterday show the need for improvement."

## More than 50 arrested in anti-mafia raids in Naples

The Associated Press

NAPLES, Italy — Italian police raided scores of homes in the Naples area Tuesday and arrested 52 suspected mobsters, the largest single offensive in the state's bid to end a bloody mob war that has terrified the southern Italian city.

The arrests were carried out in a series of raids that started before dawn and continued through the morning, officials in Naples said.

About 1,500 police, as well as helicopters, bomb-sniffing dog units and bomb disposal experts took part.

Officials said the operation

was a major setback to the Naples-based Camorra organized crime syndicate.

"The government has a long-term plan to uproot the Camorra from Naples and Campania," said Interior Minister Giuseppe Pisani.

Campania is the region including Naples.

"Last night's operation deals a real blow" to mobsters in the area, he said.

An outburst of violence in Naples has claimed 23 lives last month alone, with some of the killings in plain view. Investigators say that the violence stems from a power struggle within the Di Lauro clan, a Camorra subgroup, over drug trafficking.

## Spain says Italy handed over key suspect in Madrid train bombings

The Associated Press

MADRID, Spain — Spain said Tuesday that Italy has handed over Rabei Osman Ahmed, an Egyptian who is considered a key suspect in the Madrid train bombings.

Spanish police were accompanying him to Madrid on Tuesday evening, the Spanish Interior Ministry said.

Osman Ahmed was arrested in Milan in June after police overheard him allegedly boasting about his role in planning the Madrid bombings and referring to another imminent attack. The Italian Supreme Court agreed last week to extradite him.

The Madrid attack killed 191 people and wounded more than 1,500.

Spanish Judge Juan del Olmo, who is leading the probe into the attacks, requested Osman Ahmed's extradition soon after he was arrested, saying that while living in Madrid the suspect "managed to take control of a small group of Arab followers, all of them with extremist Islamic ideology, supporters of jihad [holy war] and Osama bin Laden."

Spain's Justice Ministry said last week that Osman Ahmed can be held in Spain for a maximum

of six months because he also faces terrorism-related charges in Italy.

Spanish authorities consider Osman Ahmed a key figure in the planning of the March 11 train bombings and in the structure of al-Qaida in Europe. They say he is an expert in explosives who was mentioned several years ago in a police investigation of Islamic extremism in Spain but dropped out of view in 2002.

In phone taps recorded before his arrest, Osman Ahmed reportedly said, "The Madrid attack is my project" and the March 11 attacks would teach a "lesson to Europe."

# Goodall urges primate preservation

## Researcher lectures group in Singapore

The Associated Press

SINGAPORE — Biologist Jane Goodall brought her trademark message to Singapore on Tuesday: human beings and chimpanzees are more alike than one would think.

To prove it, Goodall imitated the laugh of a chimpanzee before a surprised audience of 300 students and university lecturers at an international conference. It sounded a lot like a human laugh, though more high-pitched.

Goodall, known for decades of research on chimpanzees' behavior, told the crowd at the Biology in Asia International Conference that individuals must act to conserve the environment.

"We are at the crossroads, we can't have hope forever," she said.

The 70-year-old Briton, who holds a doctorate in ethology from Cambridge University, urged scientists to carry out further research.

"I hope that young Singaporean biologists will find out more," she said.

The conference, held at Nanyang Technological University, ends Friday.

Singapore is one of Asia's top research destinations.



Dr. Jane Goodall, world-acclaimed conservation biologist and pioneer for her work on chimpanzees in Africa, delivers her keynote speech during the Biology in Asia international conference in Singapore on Tuesday.



Biologist Luciano Leal shows a replica of *Unaysaurus toletinoi* at the National Museum in Rio de Janeiro on Friday.

## Brazil museum shows off new dino

BY PETER MUELLO

The Associated Press

RIO DE JANEIRO, Brazil — Scientists have unveiled a replica of a new species of dinosaur whose fossils were recently discovered in Brazil. The new dinosaur, an ancestor of the brontosaurus, has more in common with species found in Europe than other finds in South America.

A replica of *Unaysaurus toletinoi*, a small plant-eater that lived some 230 million years ago, was unveiled last week at the National Museum in Rio.

"It differs from all other dinosaurs," *Zootaxa*, a scientific journal published in New Zealand, said in a recent issue.

"Unaysaurus represents the first 'prosauropod' grade dinosaur from Brazil."

Prosauropods were primitive dinosaurs with long necks and tails, like the earthshaking giants in the film "Jurassic Park."

Although *unaysaurus* was just 8 feet long and weighed about 150 pounds, it was the ancestor of the huge brontosaurus and diplodocus that appeared millions of years later.

"He's a unique dinosaur," said biologist Luciano Leal of the National Museum, who helped unearth the fossil.

*Unaysaurus* is the oldest of the 11 dinosaurs found in Brazil. It lived in the Triassic period, long before the huge dinosaurs evolved.

When the *unaysaurus* died, its bones were calcified and remained buried until May 1998.

Then, Toletino Marafra, a retired industrial worker, was walking to a game of bocce when he noticed the fossil sticking up on a back road in Agua Negra, 800 miles southwest of Rio de Janeiro.

Using hammers and chisels, Leal and colleagues dug out the bones and spent nearly six years cleaning and mounting the fossil, which included a nearly complete skull.

The dinosaur was named for the region — Unay is the Tupi Indian term for Black Water, or Agua Negra in Portuguese — and Toletino in honor of its discoverer.

## Hometown crime spree

SYDNEY, Australia — Miss Universe Jennifer Hawkins has inadvertently sparked a crime spree in her Australian hometown, and civic leaders have had enough.

Five signs erected in her honor in the economically depressed steel-making city of Newcastle have been stolen in the six months since she was crowned, Mayor Greg Piper said Tuesday.

The city council has decided it will no longer replace the signs, which cost 250 Australian dollars each, he said.

"As a council, I think it's improper for us to continue putting the signs up when we know they're going to be vandalized," he said, adding he didn't want to spend any more taxpayers' money.

## Man bitten twice by snakes

OSLO, Norway — A Norwegian man with an illegal collection of exotic animals was rushed to the hospital twice in one day after being bitten by two different poisonous snakes, police said.

The man in his 30s was bitten by a rattlesnake Monday night, said police in Asker, near Oslo.

Afterward, police learned the man had been taken to the hospital earlier the same day after being bitten by a Malaysian palm viper, but checked himself out.

Though he survived both bites, his illegal collection of exotic pets, including four snakes, was confiscated and he faces charges of illegally importing wildlife into Norway, police said.

## Anti-drunk driving message

LONDON — The British government on Monday launched its annual campaign against drunken driving over the Christmas period, including hard-hitting new TV advertisements.

Last year, 560 people died in Britain in drunken driving-related crashes while 2,600 were seriously injured, the government said.

Transport Secretary Alistair Darling urged motorists to leave their cars at home during the Christmas and New Year festive period or get someone else to drive.

"You can't calculate your own drink-drive limit and the only safe way is not to drink and drive," Darling said.

New television ads to be shown over the next few weeks show several young men in a pub, one of whom decides to have a second drink even though he is driving later. At that point, a pretty woman walking toward him is violently thrown down as if struck by a car and killed.

From The Associated Press

LOOK FOR  
HOLIDAY GREETINGS  
FROM FOLKS BACK HOME

in your December 16th  
STARS AND STRIPES Middle East edition

STARS AND STRIPES.  
Your Hometown Newspaper









# FACES

## Fox shares ice with hockey star

It was difficult to tell who was more excited: **Michael J. Fox** for playing alongside former hockey star **Gilbert Perreault**, or the other way around.



Fox

"Man, it's very cool. It's thrilling," Fox said Saturday after meeting Perreault, a member of the Buffalo Sabres' famed French Connection of the 1970s. "I mean, I'm skating with the French Connection today. Give me a break. It's just insane. That's nuts. I love it."

The feeling was more than mutual.

"I had a big thrill playing with him," Perreault said. "He's got a lot of guts, and good luck to him. He's a wonderful man."

The meeting was part of former Sabres captain **Pat LaFontaine's** Champions in Courage charity game to raise money for Buffalo Women and Children's Hospital. The event raised more than \$200,000 toward LaFontaine's goal of building a computer playground for children at the hospital.

## Piscopo embarrassed by some characters

Comedian **Joe Piscopo** wants to change the popular stereotypes of Italian-Americans promoted on television and in movies.

The former "Saturday Night Live" star attended a panel discussion at Seton Hall University on Saturday that examined why, according to one attendee, prejudice against Italians is tacitly accepted in popular culture.

Piscopo, who said he is embarrassed by some of the stereotypical Italian characters he has played, is at work on a movie that portrays an Italian-American family from northern New Jersey. He is determined to get the film made, though he said he has run into difficulties because it is not gangster-related.

## Trump wants \$500M from ex-employer

**Donald Trump** got fired. Now he's asking for \$500 million.

The real estate mogul and television star is offering to drop his breach of contract lawsuit against the Eastern Pequot tribe and the casino investors who replaced him in exchange for half a billion dollars.

"The figure was arrived at very carefully by people in the Trump organization who determined what likely income would have been generated had the Trump organization gone forward with the Eastern Pequot casino," Trump's lawyer, **Robert I. Reardon**, told *The Day* of New London.

The Eastern Pequot's attorney, however, says the tribe is not interested.



Trump

## Ballard worried before return to Titanic

Ocean explorer **Robert Ballard** was nervous this summer as he prepared to return to the *Titanic* for the first time since he discovered the famous shipwreck nearly two decades ago.

He had been hearing reports of severe deterioration of the ship from natural causes and from damage done by scores of dives.

Ballard also worried that passengers' personal belongings had been taken by salvagers.

But using the latest high definition cameras and precise robotic submarines, he made a startling discovery: Two shoes, one larger than the other, next to each other and a hair comb nearby, along with materials from a third-class cabin. Ballard believes the shoes belonged to a mother and her daughter.



Ballard

"They're the tombstones," Ballard said. "I can tell you it absolutely speaks to you when you go there. It's not just a ship."

Ballard spoke Friday at Mystic Aquarium & Institute For Exploration, which he runs. The aquarium has expanded its exhibit on the *Titanic* to include Ballard's latest video clips and photos from his summer voyage.

The *Titanic* sank on April 15, 1912, after it hit an iceberg on its maiden voyage. More than 1,500 passengers and crew members died in less than three hours.

Photos and stories from wire reports



BY ELAINE DUTKA  
Los Angeles Times

## HOLLYWOOD

**W**illem Dafoe conjures up the image of cold intensity. During his quarter of a century on screen, he's played more than his share of villains and madmen. By his own admission, he was never "the boy next door."

Starting out as an extra in the ill-fated "Heaven's Gate," the actor was cast as a postmodern heavy in 1985's "To Live and Die in L.A.," his breakthrough film, and nominated for a best supporting actor Oscar as the title character in 2000's "Shadow of the Vampire." He was also the Green Goblin in "Spider-Man" (a role that generated his own action doll), a kidnapper in "The Clearing" (2004) and a five-star general plotting to overthrow the government in Lee Tamahori's "XXX: State of the Union," currently being the cameras.

Over lunch however, the actor reveals a softer side — more salmon ("medium, please") than red meat: He's not the Christ-like soldier he played in "Platoon," which earned him another best supporting actor nomination, nor the Savior himself, as in "The Last Temptation of Christ." But in a town where the media and their prey are often at arm's length, he was surprisingly chatty ("slow me down") and reflective. Holding forth on topics such as the relationship between acting and life and the benefits of age, the actor undercuts his philosophical riffs with an easy, self-deprecating laugh.

The subject at hand: the Wes Anderson comedy "The Life Aquatic with Steve Zissou," set to open in New York and Los Angeles on Dec. 10. In it, Dafoe takes on the unlikely role of Klaus, a German engineer to Bill Murray's pot-smoking, Jacques Cousteau-type oceanographer — a man in search of the jaguar shark that devoured his best friend.

Co-starring with Dafoe: Cate Blanchett as a very pregnant reporter, Owen Wilson as Murray's long-lost son, Anjelica Huston as Murray's disaffected wife, and Jeff Goldblum as her former husband. They all act as if they're people when they haven't got a clue, explains Dafoe: "It's a 'portrait of pretension.'"

While Klaus was a comic departure for him, he identified with the character.

"We share an earnestness — and loyalty," Dafoe says. "Like him, part of me is a blowhard. Part of me is a bully. Klaus comes off as an egomaniac but what he really wants is acceptance and love."

And Dafoe? "I ain't saying, I ain't saying," the actor retorts, munching on his radicchio salad.

Dressed in a black V-neck sweater and faded jeans,

Dafoe looks less Hollywood and more downtown Manhattan, his adopted home.

A high school dropout, the Wisconsin native headed east in the mid-1970s and joined New York City's avant-garde Wooster Group.

Without being "gossipy," he says, he feels compelled to note that there's been a "bit of an adjustment" on that front. Last winter, a 27-year live-in relationship with Wooster's artistic director, Elizabeth LeCompte, came to an end, and — because their "personal lives and work are so intertwined," he diluted his involvement with the troupe. The stage is still a passion. ("Theater is like having a monogamous relationship, while movies are like being with a different woman every night.") He'll act with them again. But when he's not on a set, he's in Rome.

Rome, he says, is where his heart is since encountering Italian director **Giuseppe Colaninno**. Her "Aprile il Cuore" (Open My Heart), an explicit tale of love between two sisters, will be released in New York in December and Los Angeles the following month.

It's a brand new chapter, acknowledges the 49-year-old. Change is inherent in life, he says, alluding to one of his favorite books: **Alan Watts' "The Wisdom of Insecurity."** While he's not someone who seeks it out, being a performer helps. Actors live in a variety of locations and establish deep, but transitory, bonds.

Working in a collaborative medium, moreover, teaches them to go: "It's not all up to you," he observes.

"It's a contradiction," Dafoe says. "To do what you need to do, you have to believe that you're at the center of it all. But you also realize that you're one as narcissist."

## Willem Dafoe

pect, one strand in a huge thing. Actors are seen as narcissist but a lot of them deeply want to disappear into a role."

Finding oneself by losing oneself is easier said than done, he concedes. "Someone once called me a 'book Buddha' — and they were half right. Just because I'm attracted to a certain kind of writing doesn't mean that I live it."

Though it's hard to confirm, conventional wisdom has it that Dafoe has had more death scenes than any other mainstream actor — most notably in "Platoon" and "Last Temptation of Christ."

"I'm practicing so that when the time comes, I'll be really good at it," he quips, taking a last sip of espresso. "That's an ambition in itself. It's depressing to think that someone will account for my life in terms of the movies I've done."

His real fear is that he'll die tomorrow — and the world will say it has just lost the Green Goblin.

"I guess there are worse things," the actor concludes, heading out into the rain-soaked streets. Flashing one of those serpentine smiles, he implores: "Don't make me sound pretentious."

## YOUR MONEY

## Fellowship of the ring tone

BY JOSE ANTONIO VARGAS

The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — Whenever his cell phone rings, which is a lot, Delvon Murray, 18, hears "My Boo," the Alicia Keys-Usher duet. Whenever his girlfriend's cell phone rings, she hears "I Love My Car" from hip-hop artist Da Brat.

These days, your cell phone identity goes beyond whether you get free weekend minutes or an expanded nationwide calling plan.

It's in the model of the phone you choose — a \$602 Motorola V3 that weighs about three ounces, or one of those giveaway phones you get just by signing up. It's in the ringing of your phone, too — and the good of 'ring! Ring! Ring! in your cell phone, Murray says, is so two years ago, when your choices in ring tones ranged from "The Star-Spangled Banner" to "Beethoven's 'Für Elise'."

This is a breakout year for ring tones, with 20 to 30-second synthesized versions of songs that play when cell phones ring, like an audible caller ID. They've been the rage in western Europe and Asia, particularly in South Korea and Japan, the past two years, says IDC, a market research firm based in Framingham, Mass. But the United States, with younger consumers leading the way, is catching on fast.

It's so in vogue that Billboard

magazine introduced its Hot Ring Tones list in October, with "Drop It Like It's Hot," "My Boo" and "Lose My Breath" topping this week's chart. IDC estimates that ring tones — usually a pop or hip-hop song downloaded from Web sites for a fee, from 99 cents to \$2.99 — brought in \$316 million this year, up from last year's \$98 million.

In a short time, in a public way — while on the subway, or in line at Starbucks, or inside a movie theater — ring tones signal who you are. Or who you want people to think you are. It's a special stamp, a personal touch. Are you a Maroon 5 kind of guy? Are you a Shakira kind of guy? Murray's ring tone is a one-way street — all other people on the line, after all, can't hear it.

But in the fast-changing world of cell phones, where wireless companies are pushing more and more customization, ring tones are entering a new phase — and to the industry's delight, it is being greeted by a gotta-have-it consumer.

Next year, Murray might be able to hear a song ("Goodies" by Lil' Kim) or a recorded message ("I'll be right with you, baby") or a classic line from a film ("You had me at hello," from "Jerry Maguire") as he waits for his girlfriend to answer.

First launched in southern Illinois in October and now being

test-marketed in southern California, this new feature is the "ring-back" — a specific ring tone that a specific person who's calling your cell phone could hear. It's yet another addition to the increasingly particular way the country's estimated 170 million cell phone subscribers use their phones.

Brian Karkhoff makes a living pushing cell phones with the ever-personal touch. He works at a T-Mobile kiosk, clocking in about 60 hours a week, in the grand floor of the Pentagon City mall in Arlington, Va.

"Folks are willing to pay good money to put their favorite music and favorite photos on their favorite cell phones," says the 37-year-old, who can sell you pretty much whatever you're looking for.

Motorola A630, which looks like a mini-BlackBerry, with instant messaging and e-mail capability, goes for about \$300 list price. Samsung P735, a flip phone with an MP3 player, sells for about \$500.

Karkhoff has switched his own phone no less than 10 times in the past five years. He considers his current, clear-cased cell phone — a Nokia 6600 retail price \$399 — a prized necessity. The phone, which he wears on his belt, takes up to 30 minutes of video clips and has a camera. Its screen saver is a photo of his daughters,



Americans are quickly catching on to the huge ring-tone phone rage that has washed over western Europe and Asia. A research firm estimates that ring tones brought in \$318 million in sales this year.

14-year-old Jordyn and 12-year-old Haine, in a pool at his parents' house.

He's got ring tones, too, of course, more than 20, which he buys online at \$1.99 each, and they're sent to his phone within 15 to 20 seconds.

"Between the Sheets," by the Isley Brothers, plays when his girlfriend of six months calls; "Devil Went Down to Georgia," by the Charlie Daniels Band, plays when his supervisor calls. The rest of the calls, friends or not, bring up "Lean Back" by Terror Squad.

"That way, when the phone rings, I know who's calling. If the person isn't important — you know, if I just hear 'Lean Back' — then I won't necessarily pick it up. But when ringback ring tones come, I'll probably change the song that my supervisor will hear," says Karkhoff, standing behind the kiosk.

In a way, programming your cell phone is akin to programming your iPod, laptop or TiVo.

"The key point here is personal-

ization — anything you do to that cell phone reflects who you are. It's a statement," says Lewis Ward, senior research analyst in wireless and mobile communications for IDC.

In the past three years, cell phone users under 24 years old have been quick in adapting new phone programs, says Ward. Soon enough, though, everyone else catches on," he adds.

The graphics content on cell phones — the caller ID graphics, screen savers, etc. — brought in a little under \$150 million this year, he says, and he expects it to grow to more than \$1.1 billion by 2008.

The music industry is hanging a lot on the customized cell phone, too. The revenue from ring tones and ringbacks is a "significant addition and a significant replacement for some of the sales we've lost because of declining CD sales and online piracy in the U.S.," says Thomas Hesse, president of global digital business for Sony BMG.

"The CD collection you have is always something you showed to friends. The ring tone is a public manifestation of this."

## MONDAY'S MARKET SUMMARY

## INDEXES

	52-week High	52-week Low	Name	Last	Net Chg	% Chg	YTD % Chg	52-week High	52-week Low
18,743.13	17,081.41	15,400.00	Dow Jones Industrials	18,743.13	+5.11	+0.03	+2.51	18,743.13	15,400.00
3,746.88	2,743.46	2,500.00	Dow Jones Transportation	3,746.88	+19.49	+0.53	+23.79	3,746.88	2,500.00
125.26	250.00	250.00	Dow Jones Utilities	125.26	+0.13	+0.10	+20.72	125.26	250.00
7,189.63	6,873.00	6,500.00	S&P 500 Composite	7,189.63	+10.84	+0.15	+9.97	7,189.63	6,500.00
1,471.42	1,098.19	1,000.00	NYSE Index	1,471.42	+7.94	+0.50	+20.02	1,471.42	1,000.00
2,164.81	1,750.82	1,600.00	Nasdaq Composite	2,164.81	+23.25	+1.08	+17.38	2,164.81	1,600.00
1,137.46	1,053.41	1,000.00	S&P 500	1,137.46	+3.37	+0.30	+14.75	1,137.46	1,000.00
548.29	548.29	548.29	S&P 500	548.29	+0.00	+0.00	+14.75	548.29	548.29
64.48	515.99	500.00	Russell 2000	64.48	-3.18	-4.9	+17.15	64.48	500.00
11,705.84	10,344.15	9,000.00	DJ Wilshire 2000	11,705.84	+13.71	+0.12	+8.54	11,705.84	9,000.00

## NYSE

	Most Active (\$1 or more)	Most Active (\$1 or more)
Name	Vol	Vol
Alcoa	46,030	1,57
Amgen	40,714	321
Boeing	21,175	247
Merck	20,902	3,67
Microsoft	20,445	18
Novartis	17,446	18
EMC Corp	15,562	148
United Therapeutics	13,116	3,13
Chicago	14,229	46,17
Johnson	13,996	20

## AMEX

	Most Active (\$1 or more)	Most Active (\$1 or more)
Name	Vol	Vol
SPDR	25,324	19,21
Sealed Air	12,011	1,01
Wynn Resorts	11,993	54
Wendell	11,993	54
Sealed Air	11,993	54
Wendell	11,993	54
Sealed Air	11,993	54
Wendell	11,993	54
Sealed Air	11,993	54
Wendell	11,993	54

## NASDAQ

	Most Active (\$1 or more)	Most Active (\$1 or more)
Name	Vol	Vol
Microsoft	20,445	18
Novartis	17,446	18
EMC Corp	15,562	148
United Therapeutics	13,116	3,13
Chicago	14,229	46,17
Johnson	13,996	20

## EXCHANGE RATES

	Military rates	Commercial rates
British pound	\$1.3989	\$1.3989
Japanese yen (Dec. 8)	\$0.0069	\$0.0069
South Korean won (Dec. 8)	\$0.001700	\$0.001700
Bahrain (Dinar)	\$0.7698	\$0.7698
British pound	\$1.3989	\$1.3989
Canada (Dollar)	\$0.6911	\$0.6911
Denmark (Krone)	\$6.46	\$6.46
Euro (Euro)	\$1.3989	\$1.3989
France (Franc)	\$6.46	\$6.46
Hong Kong (Dollar)	\$1.3989	\$1.3989
Hungary (Forint)	\$1.3989	\$1.3989
India (Rupee)	\$1.3989	\$1.3989
Israel (Shekel)	\$1.3989	\$1.3989
Japan (Yen)	\$0.0069	\$0.0069
Kuwait (Dinar)	\$0.2467	\$0.2467
Norway (Krone)	\$4.75	\$4.75
Philippines (Peso)	\$55.55	\$55.55
Singapore (Dollar)	\$1.3989	\$1.3989
South Korea (Won)	\$0.001700	\$0.001700
Switzerland (Franc)	\$0.7698	\$0.7698
Taiwan (Dollar)	\$1.3989	\$1.3989
Thailand (Baht)	\$1.3989	\$1.3989
Turkey (Lira)	\$1.3989	\$1.3989

(Military exchange rates are those available to customers at military banking facilities in the country of issuance for Japan, South Korea, Germany, Turkey, Taiwan and the United Kingdom. For non-currency exchange rates, (i.e., purchasing British pounds in Germany), check with your local currency exchange facility. Commercial rates are inter-bank rates provided for reference only. Buying currency. All figures are foreign currency, the dollar, except for the British pound, which is represented in dollars-to-pound, and the euro, which is dollars-to-euro.)

## To our readers

Jim Coates is on vacation. His column will return next week.

cents and Sensibility  
Money tip of the day

## Be honest on résumés

CBS MarketWatch

NEW YORK — An estimated 10 percent to 30 percent of job applicants lie on their résumés, according to a study by Challenger, Gray & Christmas, the out-placement consulting company. And those fudging aren't just young, inexperienced workers. Top-level executives are résumé fraudsters, too.

The study found five areas where employers commonly discovered resume lies:

- Education
- Job title
- Compensation
- Reason for leaving
- Accomplishments

If the unglorified version of your résumé is less than impressive, don't be tempted to stretch the truth, writes M. Rose Jones in her new book, "Can I Lie on My Résumé?" A résumé is the beginning of your relationship with a company, and it's important to be honest.

## KEY DEFENSE STOCKS

	Name	High	Low	Net Chg	% Chg	YTD % Chg
Alliant Technology	-17	66.67	-0.87	+15.4		
Airbus Industries	79	41.63	+0.47	+0.83		
Boeing	18	54.75	+0.15	+25.9		
General Dynamics	24	53.42	+0.18	+1.4		
Lockheed Martin	144	54.48	+0.12	+1.4		
Raytheon	29	39.67	+1.47	+0.11		
Harris Corp.	28	66.36	-0.35	+9.3		
Northrop Grumman	10	57.15	+0.15	+1.4		
1-3 Communications	40	22.75	+0.15	+0.8		
Lockheed Martin	144	54.48	+0.12	+1.4		
Northrop Grumman	10	57.15	+0.15	+1.4		
Raytheon	29	39.67	+1.47	+0.11		
Boeing	18	54.75	+0.15	+25.9		
General Dynamics	24	53.42	+0.18	+1.4		
Lockheed Martin	144	54.48	+0.12	+1.4		
Raytheon	29	39.67	+1.47	+0.11		
Harris Corp.	28	66.36	-0.35	+9.3		
Northrop Grumman	10	57.15	+0.15	+1.4		
1-3 Communications	40	22.75	+0.15	+0.8		
Lockheed Martin	144	54.48	+0.12	+1.4		
Northrop Grumman	10	57.15	+0.15	+1.4		
Raytheon	29	39.67	+1.47	+0.11		
Boeing	18	54.75	+0.15	+25.9		
General Dynamics	24	53.42	+0.18	+1.4		
Lockheed Martin	144	54.48	+0.12	+1.4		
Raytheon	29	39.67	+1.47	+0.11		

## KEY MUTUAL FUNDS

Name	NAV	Chg.	YTD
Fidelity Invest: Grnlc	38.04	-0.8	+8.1
Fidelity Invest: GrcG	55.25	+0.8	+10.3
Amer Century Inc: Apx	28.92	-0.4	+8.5
Fidelity Spaurin: Egrl	42.36	-0.3	+8.6
Fidelity Invest: Latn	16.15	-0.2	+10.4
Fidelity Invest: Asia	16.15	-0.2	+10.4
Frankl Temp Frnk: SMCpGrA	31.35	-0.2	+10.4
Fidelity Invest: GrcG	55.25	+0.8	+10.3
Fidelity Invest: USRBI	11.07	+0.1	+4.0
Fidelity Invest: Ouerb	34.69	-1.1	+11.3
Fidelity Advisor : GrGpGr	39.23	-0.7	+11.3
Fidelity Invest: GrcG	55.25	+0.7	+11.3
Scudder Frnds : GrcG	21.65	-0.1	+8.0
Palm Funds A: GrlcGrp	8.21	-0.3	+10.1
AIM Investments A: BnGrA	17.46	-0.2	+10.1
AIM Investments A: ChGrA	21.62	-0.2	+10.1
Merrill Lynch : BtGrp	27.98	-0.3	+11.8
Scudder Frnds : Fnd Fds	41.39	-0.4	+11.8



## EUROPEAN FORECAST

**Benelux:** Mostly cloudy with morning fog. Highs in the mid 40s, Thursday lows in the lower 30s.

**Britain, Ireland:** Mostly cloudy to cloudy. Highs in the upper 40s to low 50s, Thursday lows in the mid 30s to mid 40s.

**Croatia and Bosnia:** Partly cloudy with dense morning fog. Highs in the mid 40s, Thursday lows in the low to mid 30s.

**France:** Mostly cloudy with rainshowers and isolated thunderstorms on the southern coast. Highs in the low 40s in the north, to lower 60s in the south, Thursday lows in the low 30s in the north to lower 40s in the south.

**Northern Germany:** Mostly cloudy with morning fog. Highs in the mid 30s to mid 40s, Thursday lows in the upper 20s to lower 30s.

**Southern Germany:** Mostly cloudy to cloudy with morning fog. Highs in the upper 30s to mid 40s, Thursday lows in the upper 20s to lower 30s.

**Hungary:** Partly cloudy. Highs in the upper 30s, Thursday lows in the mid 20s.

**Northern Italy:** Partly to mostly cloudy with isolated rainshowers. Highs in the lower to mid 50s, Thursday lows in the lower to mid 40s.

**Southern Italy:** Mostly cloudy with rainshowers. Highs in the mid 60s, Thursday lows in the mid 40s to lower 50s.

**Kosovo:** Partly cloudy with morning fog. Highs in the mid 40s to lower 50s, Thursday lows in the mid 20s to lower 30s.

**Norway:** Mostly cloudy with evening rain/snowshowers. Highs in the mid 30s to mid 40s, Thursday lows in the low 20s to lower 40s.

**Portugal, Spain:** Partly cloudy. Highs in the mid 50s to lower 60s, Thursday lows in the mid 30s to mid 40s.

**Turkey:** Partly cloudy. Highs in the low 50s to mid 60s, Thursday lows in the mid 30s to low 40s.

For current weather watches, warnings, and 5-day forecasts go to the USAF Operational Weather Squadron home page at:  
<https://ows.sembach.af.mil>  
<http://ows.public.sembach.af.mil>

## SUN & MOON

	Today	Tomorrow
Sunrise (Baghdad)	6:54am	6:55am
Sunrise (Frankfurt)	8:11am	8:13am
Sunset (Baghdad)	4:56pm	4:56pm
Sunset (Frankfurt)	4:24pm	4:24pm



KEY: Sunny Pt. Cldy. Mostly cldy. Cloudy Showers T-storms Rain Rain/snow Snow

Cold frnt. Warm frnt. Trough Occluded fr. Staty. front

Low High

AFRICA Mazar-e-Sharif MIDEAST

## AFRICA

	HI	LO		HI	LO
Cape Town	77	61	Mogadishu	85	7
Dakar	83	71	Nairobi	77	6
Freetown	89	74	Rabat	62	4

## THE WORLD

	HI	LO		HI	LO
Amsterdam	46	31	Manila	87	7
Bahrain	77	57	Mexico City	75	44
Beijing	48	25	Montreal	33	2
Beirut	63	52	Riyadh	79	5
Bermuda	72	67	Rio de Jan	85	7
Caracas	87	74	Seoul	49	1
Helsinki	38	27	Sofia	46	1
Hong Kong	72	61	Sydney	81	6
Istanbul	54	41	Tripoli	60	4

## TODAY'S STATESIDE OUTLOOK

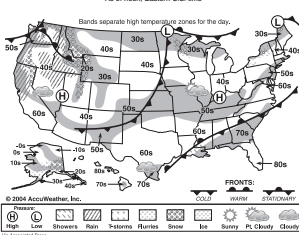
[illegible]

30	PdCY	Hartford	57	34	PdCY
31	PdCY	Harlingen	56	33	PdCY
32	Cr	Helena	43	32	Cr
33	PdCY	Hempstead	60	31	PdCY
34	PdCY	Houston	69	30	PdCY
35	Cr	Huntsville	66	29	Cr
36	PdCY	Indianapolis	47	28	PdCY
37	PdCY	Jacksonville	78	27	PdCY
38	PdCY	Kansas City	54	26	PdCY
39	PdCY	Kansas City	54	25	PdCY
40	PdCY	Kansas City	54	24	PdCY
41	PdCY	Knoxville	63	23	Cr
42	PdCY	Late Charles	74	22	PdCY
43	PdCY	Louisville	54	21	PdCY
44	PdCY	Las Vegas	56	20	PdCY
45	PdCY	Las Vegas	56	19	PdCY
46	PdCY	Lincoln	51	18	PdCY
47	PdCY	Little Rock	60	17	Cr
48	PdCY	Louisville	54	16	PdCY
49	PdCY	Louisville	54	15	Cr
50	PdCY	Lubbock	61	14	PdCY
51	PdCY	Lubbock	61	13	PdCY
52	PdCY	Madison	45	12	PdCY
53	PdCY	Madison	45	11	PdCY
54	PdCY	Manassas	54	10	PdCY
55	PdCY	Memphis	64	9	Cr
56	PdCY	Memphis	64	8	Cr
57	PdCY	Miami Beach	83	7	PdCY
58	PdCY	Milwaukee	45	6	PdCY
59	PdCY	Milwaukee	45	5	PdCY
60	PdCY	Mpls-St Paul	41	4	PdCY
61	PdCY	Mpls-St Paul	41	3	PdCY
62	PdCY	Mpls-St Paul	41	2	PdCY
63	PdCY	Mpls-St Paul	41	1	PdCY

[illegible]

## THE UNITED STATES TODAY

As of noon, Eastern U.S. time



Scheduled to ETS or PDCS?

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Realtors at your new station.

STARS AND STRIPES®  
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# Horoscope

The subconscious is like a soap opera that evolves in its own parallel world. Whether or not we choose to tune in, the characters continue to interact, and the plot continues to weave. But during the Scorpio month, we're irresistibly drawn into the action and can't help reading it. Something you thought was just a hunch turns out to be true.

**TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (December 8).** You love adventure, and this year gives you worlds to discover. This month, a circle of interesting folk wants to know you, and your interaction with them brings new business and romance into your personal life. January starts a career transition that lasts almost three months, but in late March, a huge win makes you happy you were tenacious.

**ARIES (March 21-April 19).** A \$1 bill and a \$100 bill are the same size on the same paper printed with the same ink. The only difference is the message. Make your message powerful and unique. Let the world experience your value.

**TAURUS (April 20-May 20).** You're not a vengeful person — not usually. OK, sometimes you are, but only on days like today, when all the good people seem to be getting the good stuff. Assign yourself a "time out" to count your blessings.

**GEMINI (May 21-June 21).** Once you fall into a groove, there's no stopping you. If everyone were as spontaneous, optimistic and energetic, all the world would be done, and you could start your weekend already. Do be careful not to look down on others now.

**CANCER (June 22-July 22).** Strange but appealing opportunities seem slightly removed from the real thing. Beware of the lure of rhinestones. This is no time to abandon loyalty and security for potential riches and fame.

**LEO (July 23-Aug. 22).** You're valued for your potential — and you'll certainly live up to it — but pause to be sure it's what you really want. Your talents are varied. Which

ones give you the greatest joy? What work doesn't feel like work when you're doing it?

**VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22).** In medieval times, it was believed that one had to turn pale in the presence of a beloved, eat and sleep very little when vexed by love, and suffer through the excruciating beauty of a loved one. Kinda like what you're going through now.

**LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23).** Once again, everyone turns to you to smooth things over. Your deft handling of people is a skill more marketable than you think. Brainstorm how you could be paid more for what comes so naturally to you.

**SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21).** You're a whirling dervish, spinning for the sheer spiritual ecstasy of it. Keep this in mind when loved ones challenge you to calm down and have a cup of tea. Your choice is to spin, and there's nothing wrong with that.

**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21).** Subtle yet powerful factors contribute to your level of satisfaction. You're likely to take to heart what someone says in passing or see an unusual accident as a sign. Good! You're paying attention!

**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19).** Your love of nature grounds you, and you feel relief when wrapped in its beauty. This is something to enjoy privately — others may diminish your experience with their lack of understanding. Except for Virgo, of course.

**AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18).** Usually a mellow sort, you're still not immune to the occasional impulse to rage. Take a walk, make a call, or go to the gym. Exhaust all other options before unleashing the furies. Ultimately, you're passionate because you care.

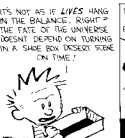
**PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20).** People around you can't help but be influenced, and perhaps a bit intimidated, by your high standards. Let young ones know that it's OK to fail once in a while — in fact, it's an essential part of their development.

Creators Syndicate

## Holiday Mathis



## Calvin and Hobbes



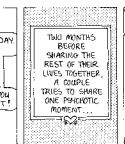
## Jump Start



## Zits



## Cathy



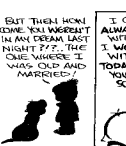
## Hi and Lois



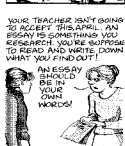
## Beetle Bailey



## Red Rover



## Better or Worse



## Peanuts



Fotrot



B.C.



Baby Blues



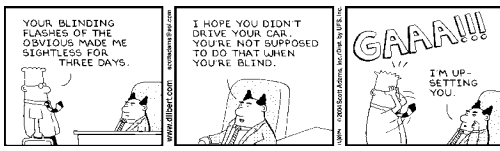
Spider Man



Blondie



Dilbert



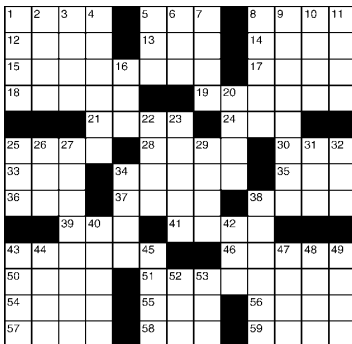
Hagar



Garfield



## Eugene Sheffer Crossword



## Across

- 1 Actress Jessica  
5 Hole  
8 Manage somehow

## Down

- 12 Earl Grey's family?  
13 Commotion  
14 In due course  
15 Fleeting the fuzz  
17 WWII invasion site  
18 Street's boss?  
19 Anticlimax  
21 Patronize the library  
24 Infinitesimal  
25 Old woman's home  
28 Wheels of fortune?  
30 Binge  
33 Bit of wordplay  
34 "Bohro" composer  
35 Have bills  
36 Still  
37 Hydrox competitor  
38 Competent  
39 In what way?  
41 Trade  
43 KFC piece ...  
46 ... enhanced by this?  
50 Capital output  
51 Broadcasting  
54 California town  
55 Plumery  
56 Culture medium  
57 Serenades the moon

- 58 Altar affirmative  
59 Writer Anita

- 25 Bond, for one  
26 Coloration  
27 Getting there  
29 Catcall?  
31 Piercing tool  
32 "Holy cow!"  
34 Obey the coxswain  
38 Attraction  
40 Home away from home  
42 Blond shade  
43 Sci-fi villain  
44 Prince of India  
45 Author Morrison  
47 Othello's foe  
48 Florentine farewell  
49 Screws up  
52 Affirmative action  
53 Snake eyes

## Answer to Previous Puzzle



## 12-8

## CRYPTOQUIP

KXND SAOWDLJ OXDZVRY  
ELYY LKLP, V YAEEGYD  
VR'Y OGZEWDRDWP

YAVRLQWD RG QLVVAZ.  
Yesterday's Cryptoquip: MY BROTHER CLAIMED HE WOULD RETURN MY COLANDER, BUT HIS STORY DIDN'T HOLD WATER.  
Today's Cryptoquip Clue: E equals P











# Southern Cal dismisses Bibby

## Former Utah coach Majerus considered a top candidate

By TADD HARMONSON

The Orange County Register

LOS ANGELES — Two seasons of losing and more than eight of contentious confrontations cost Southern California basketball coach Henry Bibby his job Monday after only four games this season.

Trojans athletic director Mike Garrett said his "gut feeling" was that USC needed an immediate change, and he fired Bibby with nearly two seasons remaining on his contract.

"It's really a totality," Garrett said. "You want to make it out into wins and losses. It's more of a gut feeling and very much what I felt. We have to go in another direction."

Trojans assistant Jim Saia, who served on Steve Lavin's UCLA staff, was appointed interim head coach while USC's administrators search for a replacement.

Garrett initially said Saia would remain in place for the duration of the season, but that might not be the case if the Trojans pick a coach who isn't bound to another team.

Former Utah coach Rick Majerus immediately was considered a strong candidate for the job and could be available to take over during the season.

Majerus did not respond to a phone message left Monday.

"He's certainly a name on the list of people we'll be looking at," said Garrett, who will turn over the search to USC senior associate athletic director Daryl Gross.

USC officials were inundated with calls, e-mails and faxes from interested coaches, and administrators are expected to gauge the interest of several others in their search.

Pepperdine coach and former Trojans guard Paul Westphal will be among them, along with Manhattan coach Bobby Gonzalez and UC Santa Barbara coach Bob Williams.

Former Clippers coach Alvin Gentry, who is an assistant with Phoenix, has expressed interest in coaching at USC.

Despite USC's back-to-back 13-victory seasons, the Trojans job should garner plenty of interest because the school plans to open a multipurpose arena in the summer of 2006 after years of delays.

"I think it's time for USC to really make a move and they could really shine with a new arena and positive hopes for this basketball program," said Saia, whom Bibby hired last spring as an administrative assistant then promoted to assistant coach before the season.

Bibby, who returned to campus late Monday to clean out his office, refused to comment on his firing only a few seasons after he showed that USC could win without a new arena.

He took USC to the national quarterfinals in 2001 and returned to the NCAA tournament in 2002.

Since then, however, USC is 28-34, and the Trojans' recent debacle of a trip to North Carolina and La Salle seemed to signal that Bibby's players no longer were responding to his tough-love approach.

Garrett promoted assistant coach Bibby to interim coach and later hired him to replace Charlie Parker in 1996, and he had been one of Bibby's strongest supporters.

But even he said he grew tired of hearing how Bibby had kicked a player out of practice or benched him to teach a lesson in his self-imposed role of surrogate father.

This season already had included the departure of point guard Rodrick Stewart and his twin Lodrick's consideration of a transfer because of their unhappiness.

"Was he a perfect father?" said Garrett, who said he didn't think about firing Bibby last week 13-15 last season. "I would say no."

The move was surprising, especially USC was 2-2 after Saturday's victory over Brigham Young.

"Nobody said this coming," said Saia, who used USC's practice time Monday to discuss the firing with the players in what he called a "mourning" session during which they accepted some blame for what happened.



Henry Bibby, above, led USC to the NCAA tournament in 2001 and 2002, but the Trojans are 28-34 since then. Assistant Jim Saia will serve as interim head coach.

"We knew we had to win this year. We didn't think it would happen in midseason, but we thought it could happen at the end of the season."

The Trojans insisted that they didn't revolt against Bibby, and forward Gregg Guenther said some players likely would ask Garrett to explain why he fired him.

"I'm sure the administration had a good reason for doing it," USC guard Errick Craven said.

"Though it's sad, we have to move on. We still have a season ahead of us."

# New No. 1 Illinois rolls

The Associated Press

CHAMPAIGN, Ill. — Luther Head scored 17 points and Dee Brown added 15 points and nine assists for Illinois, which celebrated its No. 1 ranking with a 78-59 victory over Chicago State on Monday night.

The Illini (7-0) moved from fifth to the top spot in The Associated Press' poll on Monday. It was the third time in school history it reached No. 1. The other two appearances were in 1952 and 1989, each for one week.

"Sometimes we forget we're a Top 5 team, we're No. 1," Brown said. "Fans go crazy about it, but we're just humble. I've never been around a humble team like this."

Deron Williams and Roger Powell Jr. each added nine points for Illinois, which was playing its second game in three days and started a week that includes a trip to Georgetown on Thursday and a game against Oregon in Chicago on Saturday.

Deji Akindele scored 14 points for Chicago State (0-5).

The Illini made more than half their shots for the fourth time this season and were 14-for-30 from three-point range.

In other Top 25 games on Monday:

**No. 7 Connecticut 97, Northeastern 60:**

Josh Boone had a career-high 19 points and grabbed 14 rebounds to lead host Connecticut. Boone anchored a dominating post for UConn (4-0), which overwhelmed smaller Northeastern (2-4). Connecticut leads the series 32-4 and hasn't lost to Northeastern since 1985.

Marcus Barnes, who scored the first nine points for Northeastern, finished with 20.

**Iowa State 81, No. 19 Virginia 79:** Iowa State's Curtis Stinson scored 30 points, including the go-ahead three-pointer with 18.6 seconds left.

Host Iowa State (4-1) survived a career-high 40 points by Virginia's Devin Smith and wasn't assured of winning until the Cavaliers (6-1) missed three shots in a wild flurry in the final seconds.

Virginia took a 79-77 lead when Gary Forbes drove for a basket with 27 seconds left, but Iowa State quickly got the ball to Stinson on the left wing and he made his fifth three-pointer to put the Cyclones up 80-79.

After Will Blacklock of Iowa State made one free throw, Virginia's Sean Singletary raced the ball up the floor, drove for a layup from the right side and the Cavaliers missed two tip-ins.



Iowa State's Curtis Stinson (15) battles for a rebound with teammate Jared Horn, right, and Virginia's Devin Smith, left, on Monday. Stinson scored 30 points, and Smith had 40.

# Belmont's second-half surge sinks Midshipmen

The Associated Press

NASHVILLE, Tenn. — Nick Otis hit four of five three-pointers and had 14 points to lead Belmont to a 91-66 victory over Navy on Monday.

Belmont (2-3) shot 57.6 percent for the game and made 12 of 21 three-pointers.

Navy (3-4) trailed 44-41 with 14:37 left until the Bruins scored 11 straight points.

Navy, which shot 42.6 percent from the field, was led by Laramie Mergerson (14 points) and David Hooper (10).

The Midshipmen made four of 17 three-pointers.

Belmont never trailed after Josh Goodwin's layup made it 35-33 with 2:47 left in the first half.

Navy will host Stony Brook on Saturday.

# Texas LB Johnson selected as college football's top defender

From wire reports

CHARLOTTE, N.C. — Texas linebacker Derrick Johnson was the Bronko Nagurski Award in Charlotte on Monday night, honoring his status as college football's defensive player of the year.

Johnson, a senior, beat four other finalists — Wisconsin defensive end Erasmus James, Marshall defensive end Johnathan Giddard, Georgia defensive end

David Pollack and Auburn cornerback Carlos Rogers.

Johnson, who set a school record with eight forced fumbles this season, became the first Texas player to win the 12-year-old award, presented by the Football Writers Association of America and the Charlotte Touchdown Club.

"My biggest strength is my speed," said Johnson, who has been clocked in the 4.4-second

range in the 40-yard dash. "Speed is involved on every single play on defense, and there aren't too many guys who can outrun me."

Johnson also is a finalist for the Bednarik, Lombardi and Butkus awards.

When Johnson was announced as the Nagurski winner, he flashed a "Hook 'em Horns" sign and was greeted by a standing ovation during a banquet in Charlotte. A 6-foot-4, 235-pound weak-

side linebacker, Johnson is considered a likely top-10 pick in the NFL Draft.

"He's a special guy, real special," Texas defensive coordinator Greg Robinson said.

Johnson edged other distinguished defensive players. Wisconsin's James, a 263-pounder who excels in rushing the passer, required constant double-teaming, might also be one of the top players in the draft. Georgia's Pol-

lack was also a Nagurski finalist as a sophomore.

Marshall's Goddard led the country with 16 sacks. Auburn's Rogers was honored to be so dangerous as a senior that SEC quarterbacks rarely show them respect.

Johnson joins former Nagurski winners Dan Morgan of Miami, Georgia's Champ Bailey, Michigan's Charles Woodson, Oklahoma's Roy Williams and Miami's Warren Sapp.

# Players, clubs make progress, but no deal yet

BY RONALD BLUM  
The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Baseball players and owners have made progress toward toughening rules on steroid testing, a move that would pre-empt congressional intervention.

How close they are to an agreement depends on which side you listen to.

Commissioner Bud Selig, who has called for more frequent testing and harsher penalties, told Colorado Gov. Bill Owens two weeks ago that an agreement was near, Owens said Monday.

Gene Orza, the union's chief operating officer, said that while the discussions toward a new agreement had advanced, there was more work to be done.

"We've had a series of discussions with the clubs, and in many respects they've been fruitful," he said Monday after the union opened its annual executive board meeting. "But to suggest we have a deal that either is going to be ratified by the executive board or that is going to be put in place shortly is simply not true."

Orza said discussions will continue, and a management official said owners hoped they would resume next week. Selig wants tougher rules in place by "One Day."

"I won't say we're a long ways away," Orza said of an agreement. "I don't want to say it's not possible. I just can't guarantee it."

Currently, players are tested once from the start of spring training through the end of the regular season. Selig wants additional tests, some in the offseason, and more substances added to the banned list.

Under the agreement in place, scheduled to run until December 2006, players don't face suspensions until their second positive test for steroids.

In the wake of reports that Barry Bonds, Jason Giambi and Gary Sheffield told a federal grand jury they used steroids, Sen. John McCain has threatened to propose federal legislation that would overrule the drug-testing provisions in baseball's collective bargaining agreement.

Owens called Selig two weeks ago, telling him Colorado could enact its own steroid rules for players playing in Colorado.

"As a big fan, I told him something needed to be done," Owens said. "He said they were close to reaching an agreement."

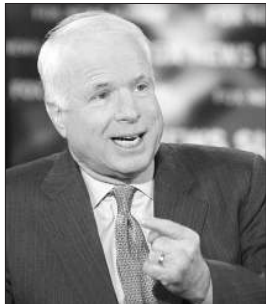
Owens hosts a monthly sports and highlights show on a regional network.

"It's clear some of them don't want this," he said of players. "The union has been dragging its feet for reasons that are hard to understand."

Selig had surgery Monday in New York to remove a carious lesion from his forehead and wasn't available for comment on Owens' remarks. Rob Manfred, baseball's executive vice president of labor relations, declined to comment on the talks.

"If we cannot resolve this issue privately, I gladly will accept whatever fate is offered by Senator McCain to achieve our ultimate goal," Selig said in a statement Monday.

"I appreciate the support of Senator McCain," Selig said, adding that the "illegal use of these substances is damaging" baseball's credibility.



FOX NEWS/SUNDAY/AF

Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz., says baseball must act to keep players from using steroids or Congress will.

"Perhaps, most damaging, it encourages our young fans to use these horrible substances," Selig said. "While I would prefer to resolve this problem directly with the players' association and jointly implement a much stronger drug-testing policy in major league baseball, one modeled after our program in the minor leagues, I understand the need for swift and resolute action."

Reporters were barred from the lobby by Royal Palms Resort and Spa in Phoenix, preventing them from having access to most players at the meeting.

"We committed to them that we would provide a quiet, intimate location for their meeting, and that's what we've committed to do," Greg Miller, the host's general manager, said.

Union spokesman Greg Bouris said the decision was made by the hotel.

After arriving at the hotel, Rich Aurilia declined to comment.

Reached on his cell phone, even the usually talkative Curt Schilling refused to discuss steroids.

Baseball didn't ban steroids until Sept. 30, 2002, and testing for steroids with penalties started only this year. Each player is tested once from the start of spring training through the end of the regular season, and a first positive test results in counseling. A player who tests positive a second time could be suspended for 15 days, and discipline rises to a one-year suspension for a fifth positive test.

Players with minor league contracts aren't covered by collective bargaining. They're tested four times per year, in and out of season, and have a wider list of banned substances, including Human Growth Hormone and amphetamines. They're subject to a 15-game suspension for a first positive steroid test, a one-year penalty for a fourth positive test and a lifetime ban from the minors for a fifth positive test.

"The minor league program has been very effective at getting us to very low positive rates in the minor leagues," Manfred said.

Chicago White Sox General Manager Kenny Williams said possible steroid use had become a factor he weighed in evaluations of trades and signings.

"That's part of the equation," he said. "If you have not thought about it in recent years, you've had your head buried in the sand."

Associated Press writers Steven K. Paulson in Denver, Bob Baum in Phoenix and Nancy Armour in Chicago contributed to this report.

# Steroid talk slows free agent market

Midnight Tuesday marks arbitration deadline

BY RONALD BLUM  
The Associated Press

NEW YORK — The free-agent market slowed to a crawl before Tuesday's midnight deadline for teams to offer salary arbitration to their former players.

Teams held off completing agreements with free agents, waiting to find out whether arbitration offers would be made. In many cases, clubs would lose picks in June's amateur draft for signing players who received arbitration offers from their old clubs.

It appeared the New York Mets would not offer arbitration to lead center Al Leiter, who has been negotiating with the Florida Marlins. It wasn't known whether Philadelphia would offer arbitration to Jeff Milton, who has been talking with the New York Yankees.

Red Sox principal owner John Henry and chief executive officer Larry Lucchino plan to meet with Pedro Martinez in the Dominican Republic on Wednesday. The two are making the trip to mark the 10th anniversary of the signing of the Red Sox baseball academy outside Santo Domingo.

"Certainly we hope to see and meet with Pedro," Henry wrote in an e-mail to The Associated Press on Monday night. Lucchino said the meeting was intended to be social.

The White Sox appeared resigned to losing four Chicago All-Star Magglio Ordonez. Chicago knows teams will have interest in a 30-year-old outfielder with a .307 career average, 187 homers and 703 RBIs. But Ordonez accepts arbitration, he'd get a salary close to the \$14 million he made last year.

Ordonez only played 52 games last season because of an injured left knee that required surgery, and hasn't allowed Chicago to examine the knee.

"I asked for [an evaluation] a couple of different times," White Sox General Manager Kenny Williams said. "That was actually prior to the end of the season

where I tried to get him back into Chicago for an examination by our doctors. Obviously, we never got that far. And I did ask again at the general manager meetings. I was told we had the same opportunity as all the other clubs out there."

Williams said the White Sox won't pursue Randy Johnson. The 41-year-old left-hander appears to want to leave rebuilding Arizona to pitch for a contender, but he also has a no-trade clause. "I've been told he won't pitch on the South Side of Chicago," Williams said.

Just two free agents agreed to contracts Monday, with outfielder Ricky Ledee getting a \$2.5 million, two-year deal from the Los Angeles Dodgers and backup catcher Todd Pratt receiving a \$750,000, one-year deal to stay with the Philadelphia Phillies.

Also Monday, the Colorado Rockies terminated Denny Neagle's \$3.1 million, five-year contract, three days after the oft-injured pitcher was cited for solicitation.

The decision is about an organization and the fans that support it," Rockies chairman Charles Monfort said. "Denny's pattern of behavior has not been consistent with what our organization represents."

Neagle, who has not pitched in more than a year because of injuries, was pulled over Friday in suburban Lakewood for allegedly speeding. Police said a woman in his car told them he had paid her \$40,000 for sex.

Neagle's agent, Barry Meister, declined comment. The players' association could file a grievance to overturn the team's decision and get the left hander the remaining money owed under the contract.

The 36-year-old Neagle is owed \$19 million by the Rockies; \$10 million in 2005 and a \$9 million buyout of a \$12.5 million team option for 2006. He last pitched on July 20, and to the Rockies 14 months has had elbow and shoulder surgery.

# Orioles wooing RHP Pavano

The Associated Press

BALTIMORE — Carl Pavano was given a tour of Camden Yards on Monday by Baltimore Orioles executive vice president Jim Beattie.

It was the fourth site visit this fall by Pavano, who was 18-8 with a 3.00 ERA with the Florida Marlins last season. He has also been wooed by the Detroit Tigers, New York Yankees and world champion Boston Red Sox.

Pavano arrived in Baltimore on Sunday and had dinner with Orioles manager Peter Angelos. Beattie, manager Lee Mazzilli and pitching coach Ray Miller.

Pavano will next visit with the Seattle Mariners and will head toward Anaheim, where baseball's winter meetings begin Friday.

Beattie said the Orioles did not extend an offer to the right-hand-

er on Monday. "We're going to talk to him again at the winter meetings," Beattie said.

**Tigers Of arrested for theft**

PORT CHARLOTTE, Fla. — Detroit Tigers outfielder Craig Monroe was arrested for allegedly stealing a \$29.99 belt from a department store, a records clerk at Charlotte County jail said Tuesday.

Monroe wrapped the belt around his waist and tried to leave the store without paying Friday, according to the arrest report. He posted \$500 bond and was released from county jail that day.

Monroe is scheduled to face arraignment Dec. 15.

# Giambi agent makes first statement since steroid report

The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Jason Giambi's agent said the New York Yankees first baseman appreciated the support of fans, though he didn't address a report last week that said his client told a grand jury he used steroids.

Arrn Telleman, who had not returned phone calls seeking comment since the report of Giambi's testimony, issued a one-paragraph statement Monday.

"Jason Giambi is an extremely dedicated athlete and a caring and loyal teammate," Telleman said. "Jason loves the game of baseball, the Yankees, and the extraordinary New York Yankees fans. Jason has always appreciated the steadfast support of the fans who have been there

through good times and bad. He is determined, focused and working hard to return to form in 2005 and help the Yankees get back to the World Series."

Yankees lawyers are investigating whether the team can terminate Giambi's contract, nullifying all or part of the \$82 million he is owed over the final four seasons of his \$120 million, seven-year deal.



# Cal keeps coach, demands answer

## Tedford signs 5-year deal, calls on coaches to make poll voting public

BY GREG BEACHAM  
The Associated Press

BERKELEY, Calif. — Jeff Tedford plans to keep California in contention for a Rose Bowl berth during each season of his new five-year contract.

He also wants to know which of his fellow coaches helped prevent the Golden Bears from getting to Pasadena this season.

After signing a lucrative new deal Monday that could keep him at Cal through 2009, Tedford called for voters in the coaches poll to make their choices public. The Bears finished fourth in the poll, but six coaches inexplicably dropped them below No. 6 on the final ballots — one of several factors that kept Cal just short of a Bowl Championship Series berth.

"It's something we need to know," said Tedford, one of the poll's 61 voters. "One of the worst things that could happen is the votes being kept secret. If we had to do it all over again, I would hope that we'd make them public."

Though Cal's players and fans were abuzz over Tedford's new commitment to the school following the Bears' best regular season in a half century, nobody could explain why six coaches picked the Bears seventh or lower in the final poll — four at No. 7 and two in the eight slot.

In the previous week's poll, nobody picked Cal lower than sixth. The latest vote came after Cal's 26-16 win at Southern Mississippi on Saturday night — a close game, but a tough road contest that wasn't in doubt in the final minutes.

Pac-10 Commissioner Tom

Hansen also wants to put names to the votes that hurt Cal's BCS standing.

"Those votes should be called out," Hansen said. "We ought to know who did that, because that's wrong."

After leading Texas for several weeks, Cal (10-1) slipped behind the Longhorns into fifth place in the final BCS standings Sunday, in part because the Bears lost ground in both The Associated Press and coaches polls recently.

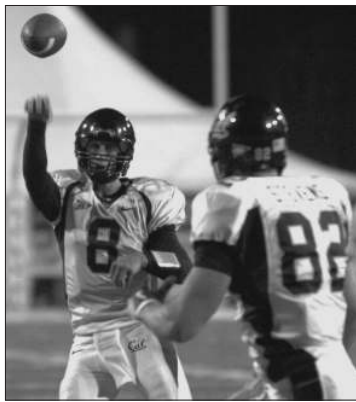
The BCS drop caused Cal to miss out on the school's first Rose Bowl in 45 years. The Golden Bears got a meeting with Texas Tech in the Holiday Bowl instead. In the AP poll, Cal finished 62 points ahead of Texas in fourth place. In the coaches poll, the Bears were just five points ahead of Texas, which will play Michigan in the Rose Bowl.

The Associated Press made public its poll Sunday, listing each voter's name, news organization and votes for Nos. 1-25. None of the AP media voters had Cal ranked lower than sixth.

But the American Football Coaches Association conducted the balloting for the ESPN/USA Today coaches poll, and the coaches voted twice this year to keep their ballots secret.

"I certainly have a question of some of them," Hansen said of the coaches' votes. "Something pretty unusual happened between last week and this week. I'd like to have the Cal football team be able to know which coaches thought they weren't in the top six teams."

AFCAC President Grant Teaff said the ballots from the final coaches poll will not be released.



California quarterback Aaron Rodgers, left, throws a short pass to tight end Craig Stevens during Saturday's game against Southern Mississippi in Hattiesburg, Miss. The Golden Bears were denied a spot in a lucrative BCS bowl, in part because six coaches dropped the team below sixth place in the final balloting for the ESPN/USA Today poll.

He said he didn't believe there was anything suspicious about the final voting.

"We do very good due diligence to run a credible poll," he said. "I understand their obvious concerns. I'm not oblivious to that."

Teaff said making the ballots open will be discussed again in January. The controversy didn't detract from Tedford's excitement over a new contract that should end speculation on his future at Cal. With other schools already inquiring about Tedford's availability for the third straight year, the coach and athletic director Sandy Barbour got something done quickly.

"I didn't want to entertain anything else," Tedford said. "I hope everybody knows by now that I am 100 percent committed to this program in the future."

And Cal is committed to Ted-

ford, who will make \$1.5 million per year, plus as much as \$300,000 in incentives, along with a \$2.5 million retention bonus at the end of the contract. The bonus boosts his annual salary to \$2 million — exactly the amount that will be made by new Florida coach Urban Meyer.

It's an impressive financial investment for Cal, an academic power where athletics have always been viewed skeptically by parent faculty and students. It's also a significant coup for Barbour, who raised all the money to keep her football coach entirely from private donors in just 2½ months on the job.

"There was a call to action that we put out there, and I can't say enough about how people responded," Barbour said. "I've said for months that I believed Jeff wanted to be here, and now he has proven it."

Associated Press writer Janie McCauley contributed to this report.

# Illini hire Zook to fix woeful program

BY JIM PAUL  
The Associated Press

CHAMPAIGN, Ill. — Illinois is turning to Ron Zook to reinvigorate its struggling football program.

The school scheduled an afternoon news conference to introduce the former Florida coach, said Kent Brown, the university's sports information director.

Zook and athletic director Ron Guenther talked last Tuesday, but Illinois could not name a new coach until a two-week waiting period to meet equal employment opportunity guidelines passed. The deadline was 5 p.m. Monday.

Florida hired Zook on Oct. 25, two days after the Gators lost at Mississippi State, satisfying a requirement of his ouster — after he replaced Steve Spurrier.

But Zook coached the Gators for the rest of the season and led them to a 3-1 record in their final four games and an invitation to the Peach Bowl. In his two seasons at Florida, he won 23-14 with impressive victories over eventual national champion LSU last season and an upset of Florida State on Nov. 20, the Gators' first win in Tallahassee since 1986.

Zook has 26 years of coaching experience, including six years in the NFL as an assistant for the Kansas City Chiefs, Pittsburgh Steelers and New Orleans Saints, where he was defensive coordinator for two seasons.

At Illinois, Zook will replace Ron Turner, who was fired Nov. 22 — two days after finishing his third straight losing season.

Turner's teams won only five Big Ten games after winning the conference championship in 2001 and going to the Sugar Bowl.

Illinois won only once in 2003 and lost 14 consecutive Big Ten games between Nov. 23, 2003, and a 26-22 win over Indiana on Nov. 6. Two of the Illini's four wins in the past two seasons have been against Division I-AA opponents, Illinois State and Florida A&M.

Guenther replaced Turner after determining that recruiting problems had "reached a point of no return," he said.

Zook, 50, a native of Loudonville, Ohio, and a former assistant coach at Ohio State, has a reputation for being a tireless recruiter.



Zook

# IOC investigates Jones for doping violations

The Associated Press

LONDON — The IOC opened an investigation Tuesday into doping allegations against Marion Jones, who could eventually be stripped of her five medals from the 2000 Olympics.

International Olympic Committee President Jacques Rogge set up a disciplinary commission to look into the claims made by Victor Conte, head of the California-based lab accused of illegally distributing steroids.

Rogge told ABC's "20/20" in a broadcast aired Friday that he gave Jones performance-enhancing drugs before and after the Sydney Olympics. He said he watched Jones inject herself with human growth hormone.

"The allegations made by Mr. Conte are extremely serious and the IOC is fully committed to

## Sports briefs

bringing to light any elements that will help the truth prevail," the IOC said in a statement.

Jones won three gold and two bronze track and field medals in Sydney. She repeatedly has denied ever using banned drugs, and has threatened to sue Conte for defamation.

Rogge advocates a "zero tolerance" policy on doping.

World Anti-Doping Agency chief Dick Pound, a senior IOC member, has said Jones medals should be stripped if Conte is telling the truth. Any decision on the medals would be made by the IOC executive board.

Last week, Rogge said it was too early to speculate about revoking the medals.

"I hope the truth will emerge," he said. "We want the truth. We want to know what happened and the more we know, the better."

**White says she didn't know she was using steroids at first**

WASHINGTON — Sprinter Kelli White thought she was taking flaxseed oil when the former world champion first started using banned substances provided by Victor Conte.

"He gave me vitamins and protein shakes and things that I was told were flaxseed oil," White told ABC News' "Nightline" in an interview broadcast Monday night.

White, who won two gold medals at the 2003 world championships, previously said she had only taken the prescription stimulant modafinil because she suffered from a sleep disorder.

But she later admitted to taking

illegal performance-enhancing drugs in May, and accepted a two-year drug ban that cost her a trip to the Athens Olympics and every medal she'd won the past four years.

White said she found out she was misled two weeks after showing up with Conte.

**Stanford offensive coordinator takes Western Michigan job**

KALAMAZOO, Mich. — Stanford offensive coordinator Bill Cubit was hired Tuesday as head coach at Western Michigan.

Cubit replaces Gary Darnell, who was fired Nov. 14 but stayed on to coach the final game of the season six days later. The Broncos lost 31-21 at Marshall, finishing the season 1-10 overall and 0-8 in the Mid-American Conference.

# Playoffs suddenly seem within reach for Bills

## Offensive revival leads to six wins in past eight games

BY JOHN WAWROW  
The Associated Press

ORCHARD PARK, N.Y. — Coach Mike Mularkey refuses to do the playoff math because it's too complicated to consider where his Buffalo Bills might fit into the equation.

"I'm maybe not smart enough to go through it," Mularkey said Monday. "But it's really regardless of what happens out there. It's us taking care of our business that matters."

The Bills, who were 0-4, have suddenly climbed in the postseason picture after winning six of their past eight games, including a 42-32 victory at Miami on Sunday.

Buffalo (6-6) has four games left and is among five teams that have a chance to win the AFC's sixth and final playoff berth.

The group of contenders includes Denver and Baltimore, both 7-5, and two 6-6 teams: Jacksonville and Cincinnati.

The Bills aren't in the driver's seat, considering Baltimore and Jacksonville have the tiebreaker edge because they've both beaten Buffalo this season.

But the Bills might have an advantage in their relatively easy stretch — Cleveland (3-9), Cincinnati and San Francisco (1-11) — before hosting Pittsburgh (11-1) in their season finale.

Mularkey declined to look beyond Sunday's game against Cleveland, choosing to stick to the one-game-at-a-time mantra he's preached since the Bills got themselves into their early season mess.

"We're living day by day around here, week by week," linebacker Takeo Spikes



Buffalo's Drew Bledsoe, coming off his first four-touchdown game since September 2002, is 59-for-91 for 737 yards, eight TDs and four interceptions in his past three games.

said. "If we can just focus on going 1-0 instead of worrying about going 4-5 or 6-0, everything else will take care of itself."

For a team that hasn't enjoyed a winning season since going 11-5 in 1999, the Bills are playing with a new-found resilience under their rookie coach.

The offense is suddenly clicking, having produced 12 touchdowns in the past three weeks. That matches the number it generated in its first nine.

Willis McGahee has been a factor, helping the Bills go 6-1 since he replaced Travis Henry as a starting running back.

And quarterback Drew Bledsoe appears rejuvenated, quieting the critics who were calling for his benching after he unraveled in a 29-6 loss at New England on Nov. 14.

In the three games since, Bledsoe is 59 of 91 for 737 yards, with eight touchdowns and four interceptions. In Sunday's win at Miami, he had his first four-TD game since Week 4 of the 2002 season and finished with a 132.9 quarterback rating, the fifth-best of his 12-year career.

"I think a lot of that [criticism], he took personally," Mularkey said. "He's a very

### AFC playoff chase

Five teams are vying for the final playoff spot in the AFC. Here are the teams in contention, with their remaining schedules:

**Baltimore (7-5)** — N.Y. Giants, at Indianapolis, at Pittsburgh, Miami

**Denver (7-5)** — Miami, at Kansas City, at Tennessee, Indianapolis

**Buffalo (6-6)** — Cleveland, at Cincinnati, at San Francisco, Pittsburgh

**Cincinnati (6-6)** — at New England, Buffalo, N.Y. Giants, at Philadelphia

**Jacksonville (6-6)** — Chicago, at Green Bay, Houston, at Oakland

prideful guy. His teammates are behind him, the coaching staff's behind them. I just think he responded as his team has all year."

The defense, meanwhile, has avoided the inconsistency it displayed in the first four games by squandering three fourth-quarter leads.

Despite giving up a season-high 32 points at Miami, the Bills had seven turnovers, including Pat Williams' interception return for a touchdown that ended the scoring.

Then there's special teams, which continues to be Buffalo's most consistent unit. Terrence McGee's game-opening 104-yard kickoff return against Miami was the third touchdown return of his season, making him only the 10th player to have three or more in one year.

The Bills have also returned two punts for scores this season, tying an NFL record held by three teams for most combined kickoff-punt returns for touchdowns.

Buffalo is a different team from the one that opened the season by losing three of four by three or fewer points. Still, Spikes said the turnaround won't mean anything until the Bills complete the job.

"I don't see it as an accomplishment," he said. "Anything else other than going to the playoffs this year is irrelevant."

# Flamboyant Portis a model teammate this season

BY JOSEPH WHITE  
The Associated Press

ASHBURN, Va. — From the first day of the Washington Redskins' first minicamp in March, Clinton Portis was marching to a different beat.

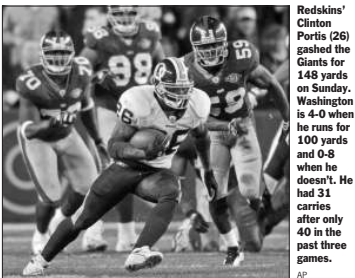
While his teammates were practically swooning over their first practice under returning Hall of Fame coach Joe Gibbs, Portis was the one shaking his head about the short offense.

"Being here a month before the draft, I think it came too quick," he said.

The Redskins already knew from Portis' Denver days that he was flamboyant, defiantly confident and very much an individual. Such players are fun to have on the team, but they can be dangerous wild cards in the locker room when things go sour.

Yet, when Portis saw his workload diminish during a recent three-game losing streak, he did something that didn't fit the profile at all: He remained a team player, not publicly demanding the ball or questioning the play-calling even once.

"I'm a key in this offense," Portis said after Sunday's 31-7 victory over the New York Giants. "I know guys are looking at me. I



know guys are going to follow me. So I can't blow my lid and lose the team. Therefore I stick with it. I'll get my opportunities, and I've just got to respond."

As Portis spoke those words, he was wearing cool-looking shades and a stylish black overcoat, having declined to face the cameras until he was dressed to a T. A few minutes earlier, he had walked off the field wearing a boxer's championship belt after a

31-carry, 148-yard performance that helped his team end the three-game skid.

He played the game wearing red socks instead of the usual white because, in his words, "If you're not looking sweet, you really can't play too sweet."

So yes, Portis the individual lives on. But, in keeping with the remarkable player unit Gibbs has established through this difficult season, the running back

with the \$50 million contract hasn't been a team-wrecker.

"He has been so good that way," Gibbs said Monday. "I would have probably been upset if I was him. But hopefully guys understand on a team what we're doing and what we're up against. Clinton, since he's been here, he's been kind of all football. He loves playing the games. I don't think he'd vote for a lot of practices and stuff, but he loves playing the game."

And, for the record, Gibbs also didn't mind Portis' red socks, which will likely draw a fine from the league, or the championship belt Portis used to proclaim himself "the best back in the NFL."

"Contrary to popular belief, I like guys with a little humor and some personality," Gibbs said. "I'm supposed to be a muckpot. That's supposed to be my reputation, but actually I like guys like that. I've coached quite a few, some real characters, and we've got along real good. As long as they'll play on Sunday."

Portis' only whiff of controversy this season came after a loss to Cleveland in October, when he said he was told by some Browns players that the Redskins' offense was predictable. Portis' comments appeared valid and were

supported by other players, but the Redskins' coaches made it clear they weren't happy with what Portis had said.

Mostly, however, it's been Gibbs who has been called on the carpet for not using Portis properly. Portis has been the team's strongest offensive weapon, but he had just 17, 17 and six carries in consecutive losses to Cincinnati, Philadelphia and Pittsburgh.

The Redskins are 4-0 when Portis runs for 100 yards, 0-8 when he doesn't.

Gibbs fixed the errors of his ways against the Giants, running Portis on the first five plays of the game and seven times in the opening drive. The Giants, weakened along the defense line by injuries, failed to put up much resistance, so it was a perfect day to get a fired-up running back in the flow. Portis' day put him at 1,093 yards, third in the NFL.

"When I handed the ball off to him first play," quarterback Patrick Ramsey said, "and he got 7 yards or whatever, he came back to the huddle and basically said, 'I want the ball.'"

"The next play I handed it to him, saw him get a first down and



